

Car factory redundancies signal slide into deeper industrial trouble

Rolls-Royce and Ford to cut 2,500 jobs

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD and Rolls-Royce announced yesterday that they were to cut a total of 2,500 jobs, a day after British Aerospace, Britain's leading export manufacturer, said that it was cutting its workforce by 3,000.

The job losses at Ford and Rolls-Royce were seen as further evidence that the motor industry, Britain's biggest manufacturing sector, employing about 250,000 people, is spiralling into depression. Ford had told workers earlier this week that its two main British production plants, at Halewood, Merseyside, and Dagenham, east London, would be on short-time work for the second successive month.

Executives were already moving to reduce the workforce as it became increasingly clear that there is little chance of a revival in new car sales until at least August next year. A total of 1,350 jobs will go at Halewood and Dagenham, with a further 137 in other areas.

Unions have the chance to reduce the number of compulsory redundancies if workers

take a deferment of their 5 per cent pay award, the lowest for ten years, which is due for payment in November. It is an alternative the unions are unlikely to recommend.

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford of Britain, said that the cuts were a painful but inevitable consequence of economic difficulties.

Rolls-Royce is reducing its workforce by 950, about a third of the workforce at its factory in Crewe, Cheshire. The factory may make as few as 1,500 cars this year, compared with a peak of 3,300. The company needs to make almost 2,000 cars a year to break even.

Peter Ward, Rolls-Royce's chairman and chief executive, said: "With no sign of any recovery we must take this action now to protect remaining jobs. These changes will give us an opportunity of returning the company to profitability, which is essential for our future. The reshaped business will be smaller but will be in a very good position to take advantage of opportunities for growth as prospects improve."

Rolls-Royce has cut its workforce from more than 5,000 in the past three years. Ford had announced it would shed 2,100 jobs this year before the latest cuts. It has reduced its workforce from 70,000 in 1982 to 37,000. Jaguar announced last week it was making 120 workers redundant, the latest in a batch of about 3,000 job losses.

Union leaders said that the latest round of redundancies was further evidence that Britain's manufacturing base was being wiped out by the recession. Jim Thomas, national officer of the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, called for urgent government action. He said: "We could be sowing the seeds of manufacturing disaster."

Jack Adams, chief Ford negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that Ford had achieved increased efficiency over the past five years and its workers deserved to be treated better.

Mr McAllister said that Ford's factories were manned to meet peak sales, not the present depressed market. Staff laid off at Halewood and Dagenham were receiving full pay, a burden that the company could not carry.

Workers have made great strides in achieving quality and efficiency targets. However, these efforts cannot overcome the basic weakness in demand caused by prevailing economic conditions."

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Crewe suffers a 'big blow'

By RONALD FAUX

THE loss of almost 1,000 jobs at the Rolls Royce plant in Crewe was described yesterday as a devastating blow for the town.

Civic leaders will hold talks with Neil Hamilton, junior trade and industry minister, to demand a statement on Crewe and Nantwich, where unemployment has doubled since 1990. Peter Kent, leader of Crewe local authority, said the town ranked high among the blackspots of the North West.

Ken Woolley, district organiser for the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union, said Crewe could become a ghost town as engineering and manufacturing industries were destroyed. Tony Flood, senior union representative at Pym's Lane, said it was the sixth round of redundancies since 1991 and no one could be sure it would be the last.



Unlucky mascot: Rolls-Royce is sharing in a slump that is hitting all sectors of the British motor industry

Absent buyers leave gap that productivity gains cannot fill

THE redundancies at Ford and Rolls-Royce, taken in isolation, could be seen as merely the further slimming down of companies trying to increase productivity in an increasingly competitive world (Kevin Eason and Patricia Tehan write).

However, the cuts are part of the retreat from manufacturing that has been forced by three years of the deepest recession since before the second world war.

Among car makers, this recession has been deep and wounding. Unlike the traumas of the 1973 oil crisis and the shake-out of the early eighties, which virtually halved the workforce in the motor industry, car manufacturers should have been efficient enough to withstand further buffering, with some factories as productive as those in Japan.

Yet the slump in UK sales has been so deep that those big productivity gains may not protect plants and jobs unless buyers are brought back to showrooms quickly.

This week's one point cut in interest rates was too late for Ford and will probably have no effect on Rolls-Royce, which operates in a rarified

strata in which buyers have the money but no will to spend.

The home market has contracted rapidly, to sales that may be as low as 1.5 million this year, from the 1989 peak of 2.3 million. That means orders worth about £7 billion have been taken out of the motor industry.

A big switch to exports has not been sustained as continental markets also veer towards recession and the motor of German reunification runs down. The number of cars shipped abroad between April and June fell 18 per cent.

For Rolls-Royce, the problems are more acute because it

leading to a decline in the first half of the year of 11 per cent over the first half of last year. As exports shrink, car makers have found no domestic market to retreat to.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is on record as saying that 28,500 jobs in manufacturing and dealerships were lost in the year to mid-1991 and another 30,000 would go by the middle of this year. The prediction seems to have been fulfilled.

For Rolls-Royce, the problems are more acute because it

sells such a small number of cars to buyers who are sensitive to the state of the economy, with about nine in ten cars going to company buyers.

One analyst said: "No company chairman will want to be seen in a new Rolls-Royce when he is preaching the virtues of thrift and implementing cutbacks."

For companies that relied on the extravagant purchase there has been no mercy. Jensen called in the receivers; Reliant, which was making sports cars, had to be sold and Lotus scrapped manufacture of its little Elan model.

Ford has found that the bigger the car company, the harder it falls. It once accounted for almost a third of the market, but its share has fallen to about 2.5 per cent, alongside the total fall in domestic sales. Unlike its competitors, however, Ford was not, until recently, a big exporter of complete cars from the UK.

Halewood was geared up to make 1,100 Escort and Orion cars a day with all its capacity for British sales. By the time Ford had completed an export programme at the plant at the start of this year, European markets were already dwindling.

A coroner demanded an enquiry yesterday into why it took 16 minutes for a 999 call to be connected to the ambulance service. Sir Montague Levine recorded a verdict of death by natural causes on Daniel Gabriel-Dowouna, 44, of Sydenham, southeast London, who weighed 25 stone and suffered a heart attack. The Southwark inquest was told that Mr Gabriel-Dowouna was dead by the time the ambulance arrived at his home. Sir Montague said that the delay was inexcusable.

Jeweller charged

Malcolm Hammond, right, a jeweller, who shot two burglars when they broke into his Herfordshire home in May, has been charged with five firearm offences including unlawful possession of a revolver.



Two men are on remand following the incident and a third is in hospital. Mr Hammond, 44, will appear at Stevenage magistrate's court on October 22.

Tip-off cuts jail term

A raider had five years cut from his jail term yesterday after telling police of a suspected IRA murder plan. Belfast Crown Court was told that Louis Maguire, 27, of Belfast had spied for the RUC and had told the force of an IRA file on a policeman, allowing police to move the officer from his home before an expected murder attempt. Judge Frank Russell said Maguire, convicted of thirteen robberies and three burglaries, that he would have faced 18 years in jail instead of 13, but for helping to save a policeman's life.

IRA bombs court cases laboratory

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE fight against terrorism was severely disrupted and 700 homes within a half mile radius were damaged when a 2,000lb IRA bomb exploded outside the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Forensic Science Laboratory in Newry, south Belfast.

The attack on Wednesday night against a key centre in the struggle to secure convictions against paramilitary offenders also injured 23 people, none seriously. It was one of the biggest blasts in the province in recent years.

The bomb, planted in a van hijacked in south Armagh three weeks ago, was left on a dual carriageway outside the laboratory and is estimated to have caused damage costing £20 million.

It exploded 40 minutes after a telephone warning, while police were still evacuating the area. The blast, which was heard all over the city, cut power lines and telephone services and shredded the front of the laboratory, bringing down roofs and shattering windows. Two schools have been closed indefinitely for repairs and pupils have been told to stay at home.

Emergency teams spent all night in a huge boarding-up operation to weatherproof the houses and said they had never seen such widespread destruction. Social workers, housing officials, community



services staff and assessors from compensation agencies who set up a special inquiry office were amazed by the degree of destruction.

Stores in the heavily guarded complex housed crucial both prosecution and defence evidence and the blast threatens to cause lengthy delays to court hearings. Noel Spence is a scientist at the laboratory, which dealt with 5,071 cases in 1991, including key evidence in terrorist cases. He said: "Vital information may be lost for future cases."

A 50-year-old Roman Catholic man was shot dead by gunmen as he worked at a house on the Loyalist Ballybeen estate at Dunonald on the outskirts of Belfast yesterday.

CORRECTION

The Polytechnic of Central London has become the University of Westminster, a fact omitted in our report yesterday.

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Minister of fun's antics failed to amuse the Tory back benches

DAVID Mellor had to go in the end because he had exhausted the patience of his colleagues. It was clear when Tory MPs gathered at the Commons yesterday for the special economic debate that he could no longer remain: the seemingly everlasting revelations about his private life had made him too much of an embarrassment to the government and to the party. As Mr Mellor said in his resignation letter: "It is too much to expect of colleagues in government and in Parliament to have to put up with a constant barrage of stories about me in certain tabloid newspapers."

The main regret of many Tory MPs is not just their personal sympathy with Mr Mellor but their strong dislike of giving an apparent victory to the editors of the tabloid papers.

Like many previous resignations, the Mellor saga has been a cumulative process. After the first revelation, there is a rallying round in support of the minister concerned. It is only after subsequent disclosures that his or her position becomes steadily precarious and, for all the desire of a

prime minister to keep an errant colleague, the weight of backbench hostility means that he has to resign.

That happened with Sir Leon Brittan during the Westland affair in 1986. The turning point was when speakers at the weekly meeting of the Tory backbench 1922 committee turned against Sir Leon. He was out within a day.

The same happened with the departure of Edwin Currie over the salmonella and eggs affair in 1988. She was too much of an embarrassment to be retained. The immediate trigger for Mr Mellor's departure as national heritage secretary was a similar verdict from senior Tory backbenchers.

The initial reaction in the party to the newspaper disclosures more than two months ago about Mr Mellor's affair with Antonia de Sancha was that it was not a matter for resignation. John Major, an old friend and a fellow Chelsea supporter, stood strongly behind him. Senior Tories argued that the editors of the tabloid could not be allowed to force a minister out of office over a

purely personal matter. Their fear was that, if the tabloids claimed Mr Mellor's scalp, no one would be safe from their scrutiny.

Nonetheless, senior ministers were irritated by Mr Mellor's behaviour after the reports about the affair. They felt that he had behaved insensitively and had been less than frank.

So Mr Mellor had little goodwill left when damaging disclosures were made during the libel case brought against *The People* by Mona Bauwens, an old friend of Mr Mellor and his wife. She is the daughter of a senior financial official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The most serious revelations were that he had accepted generous hospitality from Mrs Bauwens, notably a holiday in Marbella in August 1990, at no cost to himself or his family. Downing Street said that Mr Major accepted Mr Mellor's judgment that he was not under any obligation to report the gift because he did not believe he was compromised by it. However, Bry-

an Gould, Labour's shadow heritage spokesman, questioned the propriety of Mr Mellor's acceptance of such hospitality.

Even if the paid holiday was within the rules of ministerial conduct, many Tory MPs argued that Mr Mellor's decision to accept such a generous gift cast serious doubt on his judgment. These questions were underlined by the further revelation that Elliott Bernerd, a property developer and investor, had lent Mr Mellor his flat in Mayfair, where he had met Miss de Sancha, and had also loaned him a chauffeur-driven Mercedes during and after the last

general election. There is no suggestion that anything was wrong in this relationship but it added to the impression that Mr Mellor had been too willing to accept the hospitality and generosity of others.

Mr Mellor has also had to overcome the suspicions and, in part, jealousy of many Tory MPs. He has never been widely popular at Westminster. His rise was too fast: joining the government as a junior minister at the age of 32, just over two years after being elected an MP in May 1979.

His style has irritated conformist MPs who have regarded him as too boorish, too tactless, too keen on personal publicity and perhaps rather too distant for a Tory minister. He has seldom been able to resist a sharp remark, often annoying his own side as well as the opposition. It landed him in an international fracas when he ticked off an Israeli colonel on television about treatment of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

To his friends, his enthusiasms have been endearing evidence that

he is not stuffy. He is a much more open politician than many found at Westminster and is regarded as receptive to outside bodies. There will, for instance, be dismay in Broadcasting House at his departure, since senior BBC executives felt that he had taken the trouble to understand the issues facing the corporation and was not motivated by the anti-BBC bias common among Tory backbench MPs.

His flair for seeking, and obtaining, publicity, while irritating some, was also useful to the government when he highlighted the dangers of AIDS and went to Pakistan and South America to focus on drug barons.

After his first rapid promotion, his rise was more gradual. He proved himself to be an indispensable under-secretary and minister of state, aggressive when necessary and assiduous in committee in guiding through legislation, notably the contentious broadcasting bill in 1989-90.

He served successively in the energy department, the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the health department, the Home

Office again, and as arts minister under Margaret Thatcher. His relations with her were never close and there were public differences over, for instance, the awarding of the ITV franchises. He did not disguise his feelings about the poll tax and his style of government.

He might never have been promoted to the cabinet but for the arrival at No 10 of Mr Major. He became chief secretary to the Treasury, where he was regarded by officials as smart and adept, if not particularly hard-working. After the election he was offered a chance to set up the heritage department in the face of widespread scepticism in Whitehall. He never entirely overcame the job that it was the Ministry of Fun.

Mr Mellor stumbled and fell because he stretched his luck and offended the conformists once too often. He will be missed by many, more outside the Commons chamber than inside, because he did not always behave like an identity-kit politician. He had considerable strengths and freshness. The flaws which brought about his downfall were part of his charm.

The telephone call that sealed the minister's fate

By SHEILA GUNN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

DAVID Mellor received a private telephone call yesterday morning which, he knew, sealed his fate. His caller was Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 committee.

From sources close to the committee, the gist of Sir Marcus's advice appears to have been that, with regret, he believed Mr Mellor had become an embarrassment to John Major. After his resignation Sir Marcus said he personally believed Mr Mellor was right to resign and he predicted that he was young and able enough to return to government one day.

"I am expressing the views of all my colleagues when I say what a loss it is to the government because he was a most able minister. He was in exactly the right job," he said. "There is a general view around that he has been hounded out of office by the press. That does not encourage good relations between Parliament and the press. I hope this sort of campaign will not be repeated."

Another member of the executive was less generous and said Mr Mellor appeared

to be "trading" on Mr Major's personal loyalty by remaining in office. It was significant, he added, that the resignation was announced before the executive's meeting had finished and Sir Marcus had reported its conclusions to the prime minister via Richard Ryder, the chief whip.

Mr Mellor's days were probably numbered as soon as members of the committee's executive disclosed to Westminster journalists on Wednesday that his fate would be discussed at yesterday's meeting. The committee, which played a key role in the Thatcher leadership challenge and helped to bring about the downfall of Edwin Currie over the salmonella-in-eggs affair, acts as the conduit between the back benches and Mr Ryder and ultimately reports to the prime minister personally. Through it Mr Major learns what his MPs will or will not stomach.

The executive are known as the men in grey suits and their job is to glide around the bars and corridors of Westminster taking discreet soundings among their more junior colleagues. From time to time they sit in judgment on a cabinet minister.

Two years ago they had even weightier matters than Mr Mellor on their minds. Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, had been grievously wounded by Michael Heseltine's challenge. The 18-strong executive, under the chairmanship of Cranley Onslow, a former MI6 agent and MP for Woking, met in committee room 17 to consider her future. In the event, they fumbled it. The committee, which has shifted even further to the right since Baroness Thatcher's fall, split along ideological lines over whether she should go or stay.

According to Lord Parkinson's account of the ensuing lunch with Lady Thatcher, Mr Onslow was "more optimistic" about her chances than many other senior Tories. At the time, supporters of Douglas Hurd and Mr Major, who were waiting to enter the fray, dismissed the executive's vagueness as a "cop-out".

Sir Marcus, the right-wing populist who defeated Mr Onslow in a backbench election earlier this year, would not have wanted to make the same mistake yesterday. He ousted Mr Onslow on the promise that he would fearlessly represent the views of backbenchers to the prime minister, even if it meant bringing unwelcome news.

The question mark over Mr Mellor's future could not be seen primarily in crude doctrinal terms. His members could view the heritage secretary's position unfettered by the loyalties that lie behind so much of Westminster's manoeuvring. Their job was to assess opinion among Tory backbenchers and come to a judgment about whether the interests of the party and the government would be served by Mr Mellor's continuation in office.

Eventually, Mr Mellor emerged to cries of "Have you resigned?" from the press corps. The press thought they knew the answer, and Mr Mellor certainly knew the answer, but stayed stony-faced.

Mr Mellor remained in his office as the Commons debate opened to cries of "Where's Mellor?" Not until 4.15pm did he run the gauntlet of cameras as he was driven to the Commons by a roundabout route. It was not the action of a man staying on.

Hideaway tactics tell the tale

By LIN JENKINS

THE smile normally beamed by the minister of fun was noticeably absent yesterday as he finally lost grip on ministerial office.

On arrival at the Department of National Heritage, David Mellor uttered a simple "Good morning" to reporters and cameramen who were to dog him on his final day in office. Pleasantly over, he did not utter a word a full day.

The morning saw him go

FINAL DAY

round the corner to Number 10 for a cabinet meeting, but, as the other ministers left, there was no sign of Mr Mellor. His car and driver waited with engine running for more than an hour after John Major left. Pundits used the scene as a backdrop to speculation on lunchtime news bulletins, but the subject of their comments sensibly stayed inside.

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Family profile: Mr Mellor posing with his wife, children and in-laws shortly after the revelations about his affair with Antonia de Sancha



High profile: Mr Mellor, QC, and, right, with a UN official meeting Palestinians during his controversial visit to the Gaza Strip in 1988

A female friend to suit all occasions

By JOE JOSEPH

PERHAPS typically for a man with a zest for life with a large splash of variety, David Mellor surrounded himself with women to suit every occasion.

Antonia de Sancha, the leggy out-of-work actress who allegedly exhausted him with passionate nights of toe-sucking and sex, offered a contrast to his dutiful wife, Judith. Mrs Mellor's chain-store wardrobe may have cost more than de Sancha's but she could not match the younger woman's inventiveness for turning a bedsheet into a party frock.

Once de Sancha's three-month affair with Mellor was splashed across the tabloids the Rada-trained actress portrayed herself as more sinned against than sinning. This image began to fray as details emerged of her starring role in *The Preman*, a soft-porn film in which she played a

one-legged prostitute bedded by the pizza man.

Mona Bauwens, whose taste in dresses runs more to Armani than Army & Navy, was neither as solidly suburban as Judith nor as pouting and penniless as de Sancha. She had inherited a fortune

THE WOMEN

from her rich Arab father Jaweed al-Ghussein, a businessman and chairman of the Palestine National Fund. With it came the opportunity to indulge her interest in film production and partying.

Revelations that she had paid for a lavish family holiday with the Mellors was perhaps the biggest glitch in Bauwens' rise through the upper reaches of British society and the international jet set.

Contrast: Mrs Bauwens, Miss de Sancha, Mrs Mellor

'I am perceived by some as a point of weakness'

This was the exchange of letters between David Mellor and the prime minister.

As you know, I decided this morning that I should resign. I am deeply touched by your reluctance to let me do so, but I feel sure this is the right thing to do. I was very grateful that you and colleagues concluded in July that my folly in becoming embroiled in revelations of an affair did not warrant my leaving the Government.

I am also very glad that following advice in the normal way, you have been able to make it clear that in relation to subsequent allegations, I have acted within the guidance on the conduct of ministers.

However, I have concluded that it is too much to expect of my colleagues in government and in Parliament to have to put up with a constant barrage of stories about me in certain tabloid newspapers. Rather than have this turn into a trial of strength between the government and some sections of the press I have decided to resolve it myself by resigning.

The country is fortunate to have you as our prime minister. I am privileged to count you as a dear friend. I do not want to be seen as a liability to you. It is my one great regret about this whole sorry business that at this crucial time in the government's fortunes, when I should do much have liked to be seen as a tower of strength, I am perceived by some as a point of weakness. I hope I deal with that matter today by taking this step.

THE LETTERS

lead in the creation of a new department of state, especially one which has so much to contribute to your own vision of improving the quality of life in this country. I would have loved to have been able to do more to turn that vision into reality. I shall of course continue to serve as member for Putney. I love my constituency and will do all I can to advance the interests of my constituents.

I shall also do everything in my power to support and sustain the government in the months and years ahead.

The country is fortunate to have you as our prime minister. I am privileged to count you as a dear friend. I do not want to be seen as a liability to you. It is my one great regret about this whole sorry business that at this crucial time in the government's fortunes, when I should do much have liked to be seen as a tower of strength, I am perceived by some as a point of weakness. I hope I deal with that matter today by taking this step.

I will continue to value your friendship and your continued support in the House of Commons. My very best wishes to you and to Judith, who has provided such marvellous support through all this.

Mr Major replied:

I was very sorry when you told me this morning of your decision to resign from the Government.

It has been a special privilege to serve under you in the cabinet as chief secretary and as the first secretary of state for national heritage. It is an opportunity given to few to

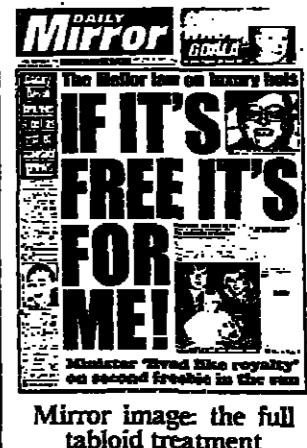
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Mirror image: the tabloid treatment

Prime minister faces Opposition attacks on policy in emergency Commons sitting

Quick British return to ERM ruled out

By ROBERT MORGAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BRITAIN will not be rejoining the European exchange rate mechanism soon, nor the same mechanism it left last week, John Major told MPs yesterday. The mechanism would have to be carefully re-examined before Britain went back in, he told the emergency sitting of the Commons.

But he made it clear that the fight against inflation goes on, and that public spending will be kept under tight control.

The prime minister entered the packed chamber to loud cheering and the waving of order papers by Tory back-benchers and good-natured shouts of "resign" from Labour MPs.

He opened by laying down the essential conditions for Britain's economic success: low inflation, low taxes, free trade and freedom from excessive state interference. "I am happy to reaffirm those principles today. We stand for a low-inflation, a low-tax economy and so, I believe, do the British people. That is why five months ago they made their choice, and they [Labour MPs] sit there."

Britain had joined the exchange rate mechanism to help to bring down inflation, and it had succeeded, he said. Government policy had had the backing of industry, commerce, the trade unions and the Labour party. "In the exceptional circumstances of

last week we were obliged to suspend our membership of the exchange rate mechanism. There was no choice. The mechanism could not withstand a market attack on the scale that occurred.

Warning MPs that a further Danish rejection of the Maastricht treaty would mean it could not proceed, Mr Major said: "It would not be acceptable for the 11 to go ahead without Denmark and against the will of the Danish government and people. That cannot happen, and it will not happen." The bill was not dead, and when the Danes had made their decision, it would be examined again.

"Those who assume it is dead have overlooked two things. Firstly, that there is much in it that we want. Secondly, that, with the consent of the Commons, I agreed it. I do not believe it would be proper for a British prime minister to agree a treaty and then disown it." The bill would return to the Commons when the Danish decision was known.

Announcing the details of a special meeting of the European Council, to be held in Birmingham next month, Mr Major said that the council "needs to respond to the concerns that people right across Europe have shown about the direction of Community policy; to review what is wrong with the ERM and how the system can be made to work better in future." It would also address itself to Danish concerns and give further impetus to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks.

"Over recent months our concerns about the Community have been mirrored across Europe. The British agenda is now on the table. I have never seen our future as being a sour, isolated country off the mainland of continental Europe. That surely cannot be the way for us. Even though some will swallow hard at compromises that may need to be made, they should remember that others will have to compromise as well."

"The voice that is raised to say we should look only after our own interests is the voice of narrow self-interest. Such a voice always has resonance in politics. And it is almost always wrong."

"Such a policy is more certain than any other to begin with chaos and end in tears."

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John Watt (Con) chairman of the Commons Treasury committee: "If you find that you are facing a wall, it is not sensible to bang your head against it. It is sensible to walk away and find an alternative way round."

Terence Higgins, former Tory Treasury minister: "My feeling is that the Chancellor, in the past few days, having declared his policy, did everything possible to achieve it."

John Biffen, former Tory cabinet minister: "Speculators aren't just a lot of yuppies from Essex in their braces, they are people of considerable sophistication."

The one-line resolution be-



Up in the air: Major wrestles with the economy and cabinet crisis, derided in the Commons by John Smith

'Devalued' prime minister attacked

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith set the House of Commons alight with a ferocious attack on the prime minister's handling of the economy. Accusing Mr Major of being a "devalued prime minister of a devolved government", Mr Smith used his first Commons performance as Labour leader to ridicule the prime minister's betrayal of his own policy.

Opening to roars of Labour support, Mr Smith told Mr Major: "You don't know what your economic policy is – that was startlingly clear in your speech." With Neil Kinnock looking on from the backbenches, Mr Smith claimed that the prime minister's policy was now utterly discredited.

"Who was it who said that to leave the ERM would be the inflationary option and a betrayal of our future and, in that very same speech, said: 'There is going to be no devaluation, no realignment? We have a government whose economic policy is in tatters, whose credibility is blown, whose incompetence has been exposed', he said.

It would no longer do to blame others or say that their policies would, given time, come right. The Conservatives had been in power for the longest continuous period in post-war Britain. They are the architects – the sole constructors – of our country's

dismal situation," he added. "In the course of a few weeks, the one policy with which the prime minister was uniquely and personally associated has been blown apart. And with it has gone for ever any claim by the prime minister or the party he leads to economic competence. He is a devalued prime minister of a devolved government."

Mr Smith's acerbic swipes

"We have a government whose economic policy is in tatters, whose credibility is blown"

at both the prime minister and the Chancellor "chucking in the docks" led to three interventions from Mr Major, who looked increasingly wounded.

Mr Smith had his own backbenchers doubled up with laughter as he paraded a series of statements and reports leading up to the government's dramatic U-turn on devaluation.

Enjoying every moment of his Commons debut as Labour leader, Mr Smith began by deriding the prime minister's stated ambition – in a report in *The Sunday Times* – for sterling to replace the mark as Europe's most stable cur-

rency. He cited the response of Goldman Sachs, the investment bankers, to the article. "The prime minister certainly had his work cut out, much the same as Eddie the Eagle had in attempting to win gold at the Winter Olympics a few years ago."

He also mocked the prime minister's speech to the Scottish CBI on September 10 when he said there would be no devaluation of the pound. Within a week Britain had withdrawn from the ERM.

Mr Major angrily tried to reassert his authority by claiming that Labour policy was to devalue every time there was a speculative attack on sterling.

Mr Smith countered that the prime minister was walking blindly on while the crisis unfolded. Mr Major said the government had been forced to devalue against its wishes "because of the inevitability of the size of the speculation, which no one could ever have foreseen".

Mr Smith concluded his attack with warnings about the public expenditure cuts to come as a result of the government's action. "The price will be paid by the British people in lost jobs, unbuilt homes, missed opportunities and declining services."

Earlier, delegates heard Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, predict that most hospitals would opt out of local authority control within the next few years. Announcing her approval of almost all the 150 third wave trust applications, Mrs Bottomley said that interest in the fourth wave was already growing. However, the self-governing units would have to be made more accountable as their numbers increased to a potential 450 after the third wave. She ruled out a form of direct management which would "throttle" freedom of trusts, but supported the idea of a buffer tier between trusts and the health department.

Scots fight water sale

The Scottish National Party yesterday launched a campaign against the privatisation of water in Scotland, claiming that the government's plan would amount to theft "for private profit and greed" (Kerry Gill writes).

The water issue has become one of the party's main campaigning planks, with members determined to fight privatisation as hard as they fought the poll tax. Andrew Welsh, the SNP vice-president, said the campaign marked "the start of an all-out war" against privatisation.

Mr Welsh, who moved the resolution opposing privatisation, said: "The Tories have no Scottish mandate to privatise water supplies. This privatisation is another example of Scotland receiving policies for which we did not vote from a government we overwhelmingly rejected."

He claimed that Westminster governments had starved Scottish water services of investment and hobbled them with an unfair debt structure, leaving authorities to spend more on interest payments than they invested in water services.

Council tax warning

Labour gave a warning of chaos over the council tax, which comes into operation next April. Doug Henderson, the Opposition local government spokesman, said: "If only 5 per cent of households appeal against their council tax banding, then one million appeals will have to be heard. This could cause the same chaos as beset the poll tax."

He went on: "Householders are much more likely to appeal than the government ever imagined. Many householders will feel that their properties are over-valued because of falling house prices and many will, no doubt, attempt to make out a case that the value of their property fell before the valuation date of April 1991."

He called on the government to give a commitment that any successful appeal would mean that overpaid cash was returned with interest.

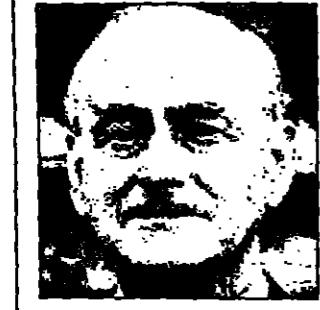
Backbench views



Sir Edward Heath, former Tory prime minister: "Our nation at this time is suffering from shock and is much confused... I believe that it is looking to this House today for clarification."



John Watt (Con) chairman of the Commons Treasury committee: "If you find that you are facing a wall, it is not sensible to bang your head against it. It is sensible to walk away and find an alternative way round."



Terence Higgins, former Tory Treasury minister: "My feeling is that the Chancellor, in the past few days, having declared his policy, did everything possible to achieve it."



John Biffen, former Tory cabinet minister: "Speculators aren't just a lot of yuppies from Essex in their braces, they are people of considerable sophistication."

Government 'puts unity of Tory party first'

THE government had lost its credibility and would not be trusted again, Paddy Ashdown said. The sooner it went, the better.

The Liberal Democrat leader mocked the government and the prime minister for failing to set out government policy. The House, he said, was being invited to approve the government's economic policies and he would have liked to have heard what they were. John Major's speech, probably intentionally, gave no indications.

The one-line resolution be-

fore the House said nothing or could be read to mean whatever you wanted it to mean, not only on the government backbenches, but in the cabinet as well. It was the only resolution the Conservative party could have put down which they could all vote for. The unity of the Conservative party came first.

Since last Wednesday the government had been trying to shift the blame on to the Germans. Whenever any-

thing went wrong the first action was to blame others instead of taking action to put things right. He condemned as "incredible" the attacks on the Germans.

The origins of the débâcle rested with the underlying weakness of the British economy over the past 40 years, and not least in the decision in 1985 not to join the ERM then. He attacked John Major for joining the ERM at the wrong rate. But he said, the then Chancellor had joined in 1990 immediately before the Tory party confer-

ence.

Another case of short-term economic management for the benefit of the Conservative party. That had always dictated government policy.

Britain, he said, had to get back into the ERM, although that would be difficult. There was no refuge in an exchange rate policy which allowed freedom to devalue, freedom to suffer inflation, freedom to have lower growth, freedom to decline while others prospered, freedom to boom and bust as Britain had for the past 40 years. There was no refuge on the periphery of Europe.



Ashdown: no refuge on periphery of Europe

New intake threatens disruption

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH John Major appears to be resigned to the odd unhelpful outburst from Baroness Thatcher and her cohorts, he could rue the day he sent them up to the other place.

From their eyrie in the Lords, they have tremendous potential for making life difficult for the government, particularly if the bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty is revived.

The peers in recent years have tended to take a more pro-European stance than the MPs. But the division of opinion has been levelled somewhat by the new intake.

Tactful handling of Lady Thatcher, together with Lords Tebbit, Ridley and Parkinson, will be left largely in the hands of the prime minister's chief troubleshooter, Lord Wakeham. If anyone in Parliament has the necessary skills for defusing revolts it is the new Leader of the Lords. He is also one of that dwindling band of senior politicians who has not only the ear of the prime minister but remains on good terms with his predecessor.

The new Thatcher peers,

backed up her former like-minded friends Lords Joseph and Boyd-Carpenter, have the advantage denied to the Eurosceptics in the Commons of the much laxer procedures in the Lords. The upper House is self-regulatory, with no guillotine to limit debate and no restrictions on the number of amendments which can be tabled and discussed.

Lord Heseltine, the government's chief whip, relies on the predominantly elderly House loathe to go on into the early hours to limit debate. But it only takes a determined stand by the awkward squad to wreck his tactics.

Ranged on the other side of the fence is a formidable band of former politicians and former EC bureaucrats with their feet firmly planted on the Euro-train. Scattered around the Lords they include Lord Howe of Aberavon, Lord Healey, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Cockfield, and the favourite to become the new leader of the Labour peers,

Gould is silent

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN Gould yesterday made a determined effort to toe Labour's official line on Europe by effectively keeping his lips sealed.

While keeping his commitment to launch a highly critical pamphlet attacking the Maastricht treaty and the exchange rate mechanism, Mr Gould accepted collective shadow cabinet responsibility and refused to be drawn into publicly repeating his criticism.

The chief cabinet rebel decided not to undermine John Smith's leadership or jeopardise his own position by challenging the pro-European line adopted by the shadow cabinet on Wednesday.

Shadow cabinet members are privately angry that Mr Gould wrote an article in the *New Statesman* which appeared today, attacking Labour's position in Europe, and pre-recorded an interview for the BBC's *On the Record* programme on Sunday.

Drawing a slight hiss from

Four former Chancellors unite

By SHEILA GUNN

ONE Conservative and three Labour peers, all former Chancellors of the Exchequer, came together to warn the government not to be seduced into believing the British economy would benefit from leaving the pound floating outside the ERM.

In an unprecedented show of unity, Lords Callaghan, Healey, Jenkins and Howe found themselves in broad agreement on the long-term dangers of becoming isolated on the fringes of Europe.

During the Lords emergency debate on the economy, the strength of the rhetoric varied, with Lord Healey mounting the strongest condemnation of the government's handling of the economy in recent weeks, and particularly of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

Lord Healey said: "What is most depressing is that the Chancellor should have chosen deliberately this very moment to exceed the worst form of xenophobia, egged on by passionate strikes from Baroness Thatcher."

With a single exception,

the Tory benches, one of the peers' strongest forms of protest, went on: "It is not good to see a Chancellor act like a cut-price Jean-Marie Le Pen leader of the French National Front, or, as the Italian prime minister described him, a toad in a tank."

Lord Healey, and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, now leader of the Liberal Democrats, said Lord Lamont should resign. Lord Howe and Lord Callaghan urged an early return.

Lady Thatcher and her Eurosceptic colleagues, Lord Tebbit, Ridley and Parkinson, did not speak in the Lords debate. Lord Healey said Mr Major had "betrayed the future of our own people" without a word of apology.

The former Labour prime minister, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, said: "Britain and Europe have arrived at one of those rare moments in politics when the decisions we take and what we do in the

weeks ahead will influence for years ahead the course of European history." The wrong course could set off a resurgence of old and virulent nationalism.

Only recently the government was declaring that, if Britain hung on, sterling could replace the mark as the benchmark currency. "We can only conclude that ministers deceived themselves as well as us."

Hearing Lord Wakeham

"defend the indefensible", he felt sorry that ministers did not take the advice of Kipling, which should be hung over Mr Lamont's bed, saying: "It was our fault and a very great fault but now we must turn it to use. We have 40 million reasons for failure but not a single excuse." On Maastricht he said Britain was still looking for a clear statement of the government's intention.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead

said it would have been "proper and wiser" for Mr Lamont to follow James Callaghan's example in 1969 and "honorably" resign.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead

said it would have been "proper and wiser" for Mr Lamont to follow James Callaghan's example in 1969 and "honorably" resign.

BRIEFS
Hospital urged to compete

New treatment gives hope to victims of arthritis

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW treatment for rheumatoid arthritis has produced dramatic improvements in people crippled by the disease.

Long-term patients, who were showing no benefit from established therapies, have been able to go for walks or play with their children for the first time in years. One man felt so much better he went out and started a business.

The treatment, developed at Cambridge University's pathology department, uses specially modified antibodies to attack the immune system cells that are believed to be responsible for causing the disease. A single course of treatment over 10 days produced improvements lasting for up to eight months in the eight patients tested. Some were treated a second time and have had relief from pain for more than a year.

The treatment has been licensed to the Wellcome Foundation, which recently launched trials on 40 patients in Europe and the US.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a crippling condition affecting about 500,000 people in Britain. Sufferers endure growing pain and loss of flexibility in the joints. Existing drugs can help to alleviate the pain and improve movement but cannot cure the condition.

The disease is believed to result from a failure of the immune system to distinguish friend from foe. Instead of attacking only alien organisms such as bacteria and destroying them, the T cells in the immune system attack the body, setting in motion the process that damages the joints.

The Cambridge research

ers, who report their results in *The Lancet* today, have developed a treatment designed to knock out the T cells by using monoclonal antibodies. These are antibodies engineered to order so that they bind with the T cells, destroying them.

Because the antibodies are derived in the first place from rats, they would normally be rejected just like an organ transplant between different species.

To get around this problem, the Cambridge team "humanised" the rat antibodies by replacing the part that binds to the antigen with the equivalent binding region from a human antibody.

They treated the patients by infusing samples of the humanised antibody, known as Campath-1H, into the bloodstream. The treatment takes two to four hours a day for ten days and, according to Dr John Isaacs, the team leader, produces an immediate improvement.

"The antibodies kill off most of the circulating T cells," he said yesterday. "While in theory this should expose the patients to other infections, that doesn't seem to happen. Patients who have had the treatment show a dramatic response. Some were so lively we had to restrain them from doing too much."

The Cambridge scientists hope to try the antibody treatment on psoriasis, a skin disease also believed to be linked to the T cells. Wellcome's trial is aimed at rheumatoid arthritis and at non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the immune cells.

Health Times,
L&T section, page 5

Missiles thrown at death joyrider

By RONALD FAULK

A JOYRIDER who killed two young children while on bail for two other reckless driving offences was sentenced to a total of seven and a half years' detention by Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

Missiles were thrown from the public gallery when Mr Justice Hidden sentenced Christopher Lewin, 19, to four and a half years concurrently for each of the manslaughter offences and banned him for driving for seven years. He was given 18 months each, consecutively, for two reckless driving offences. Friends and relatives of the dead children, who had earlier been ejected after trying to attack Lewin, were prevented from storming back into the court.

When the court was told by the defence that Lewin was remorseful, an aunt of one of the victims rushed between lawyers and tried to reach the dock. She shouted: "You took her away from me. Kill him, kill him." Other people who tried to clamber over the security screen between the public gallery and the dock were ejected as prison officers bundled Lewin to safety. Lewin, of Toxteth, Liver-

pool, had admitted the manslaughter of Adele Thompson, 12, of Fairfield, Liverpool, and Daniel Davies, 9, of Toxteth, on October 30 last year. He admitted 17 other offences, including ramming two police cars.

The court was told how a stolen high-performance car driven by Lewin crashed into the two children and another boy. They had all been collecting for Guy Fawkes night.

Lewin had lost control of the car at 60mph. Adele was flung 90ft by the impact and Daniel, who died on November 5, was flung 50ft.

Lewin and his passenger ran off but gave themselves up next day. The court was told that six weeks earlier Lewin had been released on bail by magistrates for joyriding offences. He had never taken a driving test and was banned from driving at the time for taking a car without consent.

Mr Justice Hidden said that joyriding was a totally false description. "The only joy when that activity takes place is a brief, selfish, wicked and arrogant joy in the mind of the person doing the act. The reality is a total opposite."

Baby killer given life sentence

A MAN said to adore children was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for the murder of his girl friend's five-month-old son. Frederick Feathers, 20, buried his head in his hands as the jury at the Old Bailey returned a unanimous verdict.

Feathers, unemployed, of Barking, east London, denied murdering Harry Gurney on October 31 last year. He admitted manslaughter. He will begin his sentence in youth custody.

He told the court that he "snapped" when Harry would not stop crying. He shook him and threw him on the bed, where "his head came in contact with a wall". He said that he did not intend to harm the child.

Neil Taylor, QC, for the defence, said that Feathers adored children. He had persuaded Joanne Gurney, 19, not to have an abortion when she was pregnant with Harry.

Miss Gurney said just outside court, "I am sickening by Fred. I know he didn't mean to do it."

Russians wait for visa news

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

A RUSSIAN couple who set off on a 2,000-mile voyage in a leaking 24ft yacht will find out today whether they can stay another week in Britain to make their boat seaworthy for their planned trip to the West Indies and Australia.

Southampton immigration officials have given Alexander and Galina Grashdankin, from Moscow, until noon today to leave Wansash, Hampshire, where they arrived after a nine-week voyage.

Frustration with food shortages, rising prices and travel restrictions led them to sell all they had and buy the yacht for 6,000 roubles.

"I would rather travel across the whole world and face a thousand hurricanes than deal with a Russian bureaucrat," Mr Grashdankin said.



Hungry scavengers: two of the New Forest's 3,000 ponies hunt for food in rubbish bins at Emery Down

New Forest wins national park status

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE New Forest, created in the 11th century as the hunting preserve of Norman kings, is to be enlarged and given national park status to protect its landscape and the ancient grazing rights of the local people.

The expanded New Forest Heritage Area is an ecologically unique area of heath, pasture and woodland lying between Bournemouth and Southampton. It covers more than 200 square miles, stretching from the Salisbury district of Wiltshire in the north west to the Hampshire coast in the south east.

This area is almost 50 per cent larger than the forest defined by the medieval boundary. In a ceremony yesterday in the Verderers' Court in Lyndhurst, David Maclean, the countryside minister, said that the core of the forest had been well preserved but the new outlying areas needed better protection.

Commoners, who hold grazing rights, and 3,000 ponies, 1,500 cattle and several hundred sheep and pigs, are allowed to root for acorns under a right of pannage from late September to late November. But only about 250 commoners now turn their animals out every year.

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Minister tells exam boards to drop TV shows from GCSE

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EXAMINING boards should drop television programmes and sub-standard texts from GCSE syllabuses before the qualification is brought into disrepute, Baroness Blatch, education minister, said yesterday.

She told the boards' annual conference in Belfast that the national curriculum should introduce pupils to their literary heritage. The inclusion of worthless material sent undesirable signals to teachers and

The Northern Examining Association attracted criticism earlier this year when it issued English syllabuses including optional study of *Neighbours*, *Allo Allo* and *Coronation Street*. Lady Blatch said she was "not impressed" by arguments that such areas of study were minor options among wider reading lists.

"I have no patience with the kind of cultural relativism — or perhaps the word should be nihilism — that holds that any

kind of text is grist to the educational mill, and choice is purely a subjective matter," she said.

"It should not even need to be argued that there are works of literature, as of course there are in music and the visual arts, which represent pinnacles of human achievement and touchstones of excellence for all time."

Pupils faced a demanding agenda between the ages of 14 and 16, she said. Every text under study took up time that could be spent studying something else and it was therefore worrying when GCSE syllabuses specified material that had little value.

Tighter ministerial control of the GCSE exams was a possibility when the final stage of the national curriculum was assessed, she said. John Patten, the education secretary, would become responsible for examining standards and could not delegate power to other voluntary bodies.

Lady Blatch said it was not acceptable for the schools inspectorate to declare that they had only limited confidence in the standards of GCSE.

"There would be little point in an examination system which gave a warm feeling of success to parents and pupils, but failed to command the confidence of employers and the general community," she said.

□ The Church of England could recommend grants-maintained status for many of its 5,000 schools, a report in *Church Times* says today (Ruth Gledhill writes).

In England about 5,000 maintained schools, which include voluntary-aided and controlled schools, are Anglican foundations.

The refugees are being housed at the disused Hungerford Hospital while they await the outcome of their applications for political asylum.

Croatians welcomed at school

FOUR Croatian girls began school in Berkshire yesterday after being brought to Britain from a Bosnian refugee camp.

They were greeted by teachers and pupils and each allocated a "special friend" to help them through their first days at Hungerford primary school. Shirley Huxtable, the head teacher, said: "They seem to be quite at home and I'm sure they will settle in very well after all the excitement dies down."

The girls, Ivana Sokcevic, 6, Jelena Bosnjakovic, 6, Kristina Potimbrzovic, 7, and Vanda Potimbrzovic, 6, are part of a 25-strong refugee group from Bosnia brought to Berkshire by two police constables last week after losing their homes and possessions in the bombing. The coach trip, by Steve Thorn and Gerry Parsons, was funded by local people.

The refugees are being housed at the disused Hungerford Hospital while they await the outcome of their applications for political asylum.



Helping hands: Ivana Sokcevic, left, and her new friend Hannah Rolfe

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death car carried 10 people

A learner driver crashed a car carrying 10 people, causing the deaths of two who were travelling in the boot, a court was told yesterday.

Bridgette Williams, 28, had packed three in the front, four in the back and three in the boot of a Volkswagen Scirocco hatchback after the group could not get a lift home from a nightclub. The car, which had no MoT certificate, overturned on the M4 near Swansea, throwing seven people out and killing Paul Todd and David Timmons.

Williams, of Dafen, near Llanelli, Dyfed, admitting causing death by reckless driving. She was given a suspended jail sentence by Swansea Crown Court and banned from driving for two years.

Boy drowns

Edwin Michaels, 5, drowned in the bath of his home in Wood Green, north London, after bolting the door behind him. Firemen were called after his father failed to break the door down.

Hospital sale

East Sussex hospital, Hastings, which closed recently, hopes to raise £50,000 for its new £47 million replacement by auctioning its equipment. The 1,000 lots will range from X-ray machines to bedpans.

Arson move

Rhondda Borough Council, Mid Glamorgan, has brought forward its plans to demolish ten blocks of flats after 12 arsonists and attacks on firemen at the Penrhys estate in the past two weeks.

Escaper caught

Wayne Green, 22, charged with threatening to kill two policemen, was recaptured at his home in Long Eaton, Derbyshire. He escaped from outside court in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, two weeks ago.

Britannia hit

The royal yacht *Britannia* suffered damage to its hull when it was hit by a navy tanker while tied up in dock at Portsmouth naval base.

Blocked drain

Wessex Water has issued warning leaflets about clogging up sewers. Items found in drains include false teeth, a dead Doberman, and a lawn mower.

Mellow yellow

June Hurst, of Plumwell, East Sussex, who has had 11 accidents in her Mini Metro this year, has repainted it yellow after reading that yellow cars have fewer accidents.

Betting on life

An unnamed man aged 85 has bet £50 at odds of 500-1 that he will live to 100. The bet was taken by Ladbrokes in Christchurch, Dorset.

Viscountess killed by pills cocktail

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE wife of the chairman of Associated Newspapers, Viscountess Rothermere, accidentally killed herself with a cocktail of sleeping tablets.

Yesterday, Westminster coroner's court was told that behind her exuberant exterior she was a deeply insecure person who was preoccupied with her health and could not live without sleeping tablets. More than 2,000 tablets in 75 containers were found in the villa in the south of France where she died.

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure, the coroner, Paul Knupman, ruled out any suggestion of suicide. "There is no evidence that she was depressed, and certainly nothing to point towards suicide," he said.

A poison expert told the inquest that the viscountess, aged 63, had twice the prescribed amount of the sleeping tablet Dalmane in her blood. She also had five times the normal level of the anti-histamine drug Atarax, which a New York doctor had prescribed to try to wean her from sleeping pills.

Investigations by the coroner's office revealed that Lady Rothermere saw at least four doctors in London alone. They prescribed pills for ailments including pancreatitis, colitis, knee trouble and thyroid problems.

One of her doctors, Douglas Rossdale, said: "If she did not get the answer she wanted from one doctor she would go to another. The doctors were left rather in the dark as to what was going on. We did try to make her see this and conform, but I do not think we were that successful."

"In March 1991 I tried to get her off Dalmane, but with her busy life and a lot of functions she could not take the withdrawal symptoms."

Lady Rothermere's maid, Balbina Pocas, the last person to see her alive, said that the viscountess had complained of a sore throat and had feared she was going down with pneumonia or bronchitis.



This is the Pound



The Smiths kept



In a bank that speculated against



The Pound



Which made a quick Pound for the bank



But left



The Pound in the Smiths' pocket



Worth less.

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK



Rothermere: kept her doctors in the dark

News in brief
Death car
carried
10 people

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Two thirds of the globe
is covered by water.

The rest is covered by
The Economist.

Pressure on Rabin to break impasse

Israelis leave US peace talks empty-handed

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI peace negotiators left Washington empty-handed yesterday after a month of largely fruitless talks with Arab delegates that failed to achieve any concrete progress.

Although Israeli officials put the best face on the outcome, no amount of gloss could conceal the fact that Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, is no nearer achieving peace in the region than he was in August.

Before the latest round of negotiations, the Israeli coalition government had set itself two main objectives. Their priority was to reach agreement with the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation on the holding of elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in April or May next year for a Palestinian leadership there.

The other main goal was to emerge from Washington with a joint declaration of principles signed by Israel and Syria, which could become the cornerstone of future deliberations and mark the first time

that the two warring neighbours had jointly produced and signed an agreement.

However, delegates to the talks reported almost no headway during the contacts between the Palestinians and Israelis, a setback some attribute to the frequent intervention of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its leader Yassir Arafat, who kept tight control of the Palestinian negotiators from his headquarters in exile in Tunis.

Although the Syrian position appeared to soften during the negotiations, Damascus has ruled out a joint declaration at this stage and the two sides remain deeply divided over the territories captured by Israel during the six-day war in 1967.

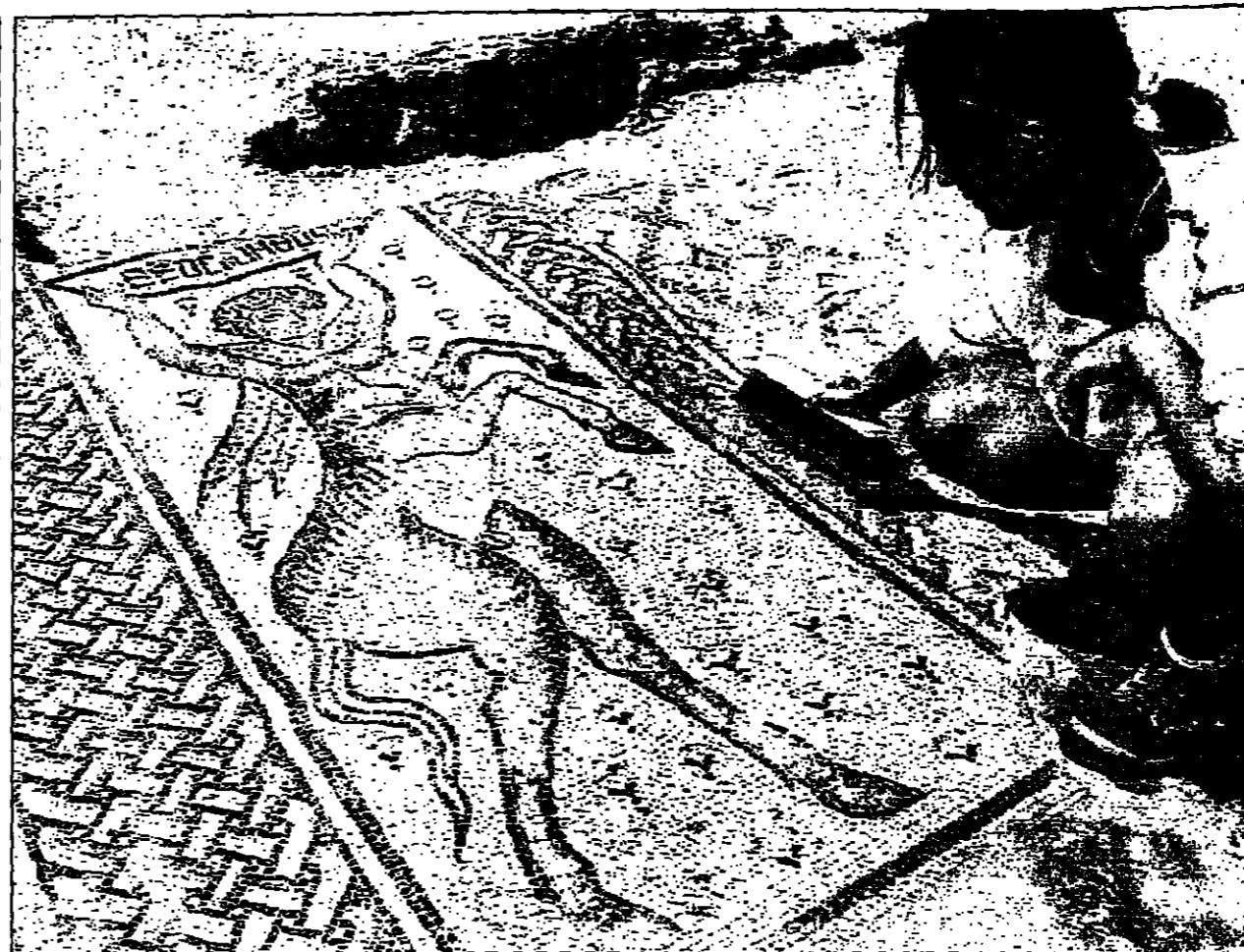
Reacting to remarks by Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, that his country was ready for "total peace" with Israel, Mr Rabin said that he would be satisfied only when President Assad of Syria was prepared to tell his people that real peace with

Israel meant open borders and diplomatic relations.

Although the Labour-led Israeli coalition government is not being blamed for the failure of any progress in Washington, unlike its hardline Likud predecessor, there is growing concern that Mr Rabin will have to produce an initiative if he wants to unblock the diplomatic impasse and fulfil his election promises.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the opposition Likud Knesset member who is the favourite to succeed the outgoing leader, Yitzhak Shamir, accused Labour of offering a "cascade of concessions" and receiving nothing in return.

• Nicosia: Iraqi opposition leaders met in Iraq for the first time yesterday in an effort to forge a united movement to topple President Saddam Hussein (Michael Theodoulou writes). The gathering, in the Kurdish-controlled northern city of Saladin, included representatives of almost all Iraq's religious, ethnic and political groups.



History uncovered: a woman cleaning a mosaic of a centaur found at the ancient city of Sepporis in northern Israel. It is one of a series of remarkably preserved mosaics – between 1,500 and 1,700 years old –

featuring gods and hunting scenes, discovered by archaeologists at what was Galilee's capital in Roman times. With the portrait of a beautiful woman found five years ago, dubbed the Mona Lisa, they make Sepporis the richest

site of mosaics in Israel, according to Hebrew University archaeologists conducting the dig. They have also unearthed a colonnaded shopping street at the site, four miles from Nazareth. (AP)

Heat is worst foe for Gulf patrol

Christopher Walker swelters with sailors of HMS Chatham on sanctions duty in the Gulf

Two years after the invasion of Kuwait, British warships patrolling the Gulf to enforce sanctions against Iraq are still struggling to cope with their most potent enemy in the region – heat.

"The most important thing is to keep the men from dehydrating. On deck, they need 15 litres of water a day and getting that to them, especially if there is a threat of chemical attack, is a real problem," said Tony Hogg, captain of one of three Royal Navy vessels whose Armilla patrol is a reminder that, if necessary, UN resolutions will be backed by force.

On deck, where metal surfaces are painful to the touch at temperatures of 45°C, sailors in nuclear, biological and chemical suits loaded missile-deflecting shells in de-salinating pools of sweat. "It takes at least a month to adjust to temperatures like this and today is not exceptionally hot," said Lieutenant Mick Colyer, his brow streaming, despite the strip of shade above.

Iran's new submarine sets sail

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE first of three Kilo class Russian diesel-powered submarines sold to Iran has set sail for the Gulf from a naval base in Lavia, it was disclosed yesterday. Britain has warned Russia that the sale is "potentially destabilising".

The prospect of Iran becoming the first state in the Gulf to have submarines has raised fresh fears in the West over arms proliferation in the region. The 3,000-ton submarine is one of the most potent acquisitions in Iran's current arms build-up.

Iranian crews have been training at a Russian base in Lavia for about a year. Yesterday, some of the submarine trainee crews were filmed secretly by the BBC.

Russia and the four other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are supposedly in agreement over the danger of selling high-technology military equipment to countries like Iran. British officials have raised the issue of Russian sales to Iran, which have also included MiG 29 and Su 24 fighter aircraft. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We encourage all countries to follow a responsible policy on arms sales to the region."

Denis Tuthas, Lavia's deputy defence minister, said yesterday: "At the same time as the Russians want to become part of Europe and be allies of the West, and claim common interest with the West and claim to be opposed to aggression, they are again providing terrorist weapons of unforseen magnitude to the Iranians."

The Iranians already have three destroyers and five frigates, and with the effective elimination of Iraq's navy in the Gulf war, Tehran is aiming to become the dominant force in the Gulf, with the potential to threaten oil routes.

Russian officials have justified the deal by saying that it was agreed before the break-up of the Soviet Union. They said they were obliged to fulfil the terms of the contract. But the West suspects Russia is just desperate for foreign currency.

Kilo submarines, armed with conventional torpedoes, have a crew of 45 and a maximum speed of 17 knots.

Above our heads, came the rumble of the swivelling "goalkeeper" Gatling gun capable of firing 4,200 30mm rounds a minute at any incoming missile. "In this part of the globe, it gives a warm feeling to know it is there," Lieutenant Colyer said.

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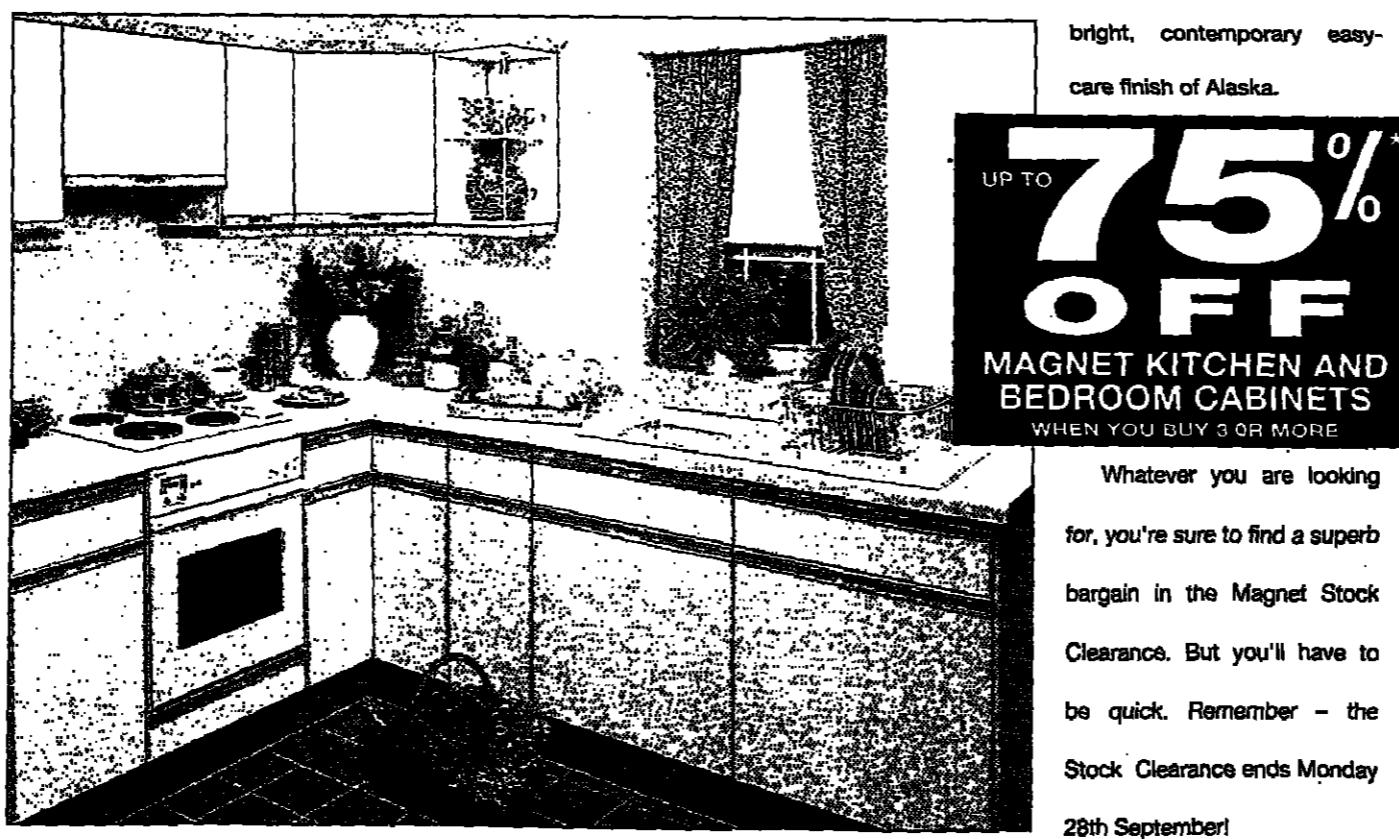
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Delors puts treaty vote behind him and sets sights on Elysée



Delors: has set up new group of supporters

THE Eurocrat may have eclipsed Messrs Saddam Hussein and Milosevic in the league of villainy this week, but the unpopularity of the species has not prevented the vision of a future President Delors from looming over France.

Four days after his Brussels job was saved by the votes of half a million fellow citizens, the of the European Commission in effect threw his hat into the race for a chance to take over from President Mitterrand yesterday. M. Delors announced the creation of a group that will serve as his power base within the governing party.

M. Mitterrand says that he is determined to stay for the final three years of his term, but his illness and the political upheaval of the referendum have unleashed mutiny and a bout

As speculation grows that President Mitterrand will retire soon, the battle for the succession swings into gear, writes Charles Bremner from Paris

of presidential ambition in the Socialist and Gaullist parties, the two main political formations. Speculation remains intense over the possibility that M. Mitterrand, who has served for 11 years, could retire before the end of the year, ahead of parliamentary elections due next March.

Opinion polls conducted on Sunday indicated that M. Delors, a former finance minister in M. Mitterrand's first term, would beat all comers if a presidential election were held now. The figure was, as much as anything, an indication of France's weariness with

the band of tired contenders who have been jostling for the top job for almost two decades. M. Delors is heading for a challenge to Michel Rocard, the almost anointed candidate of the party that M. Mitterrand led to power in 1981. M. Delors' group, called the "Witness Club", is to be inaugurated early next month with the support of Martine Aubry, his daughter and employment minister, Bernard Kouchner, the popular humanitarian action minister, Elisabeth Guigou, the European affairs minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the

foreign trade minister, and Lionel Jospin, who served as Socialist leader and education minister. This month's fashionable loathing for arrogant Eurocrats has not affected M. Delors, but sceptics doubt that, with his hot temper, he can sustain his popularity.

With the political cards reshuffled in the bitter referendum campaign, Pierre Bérégovoy, M. Mitterrand's avuncular prime minister, is also reported to be preparing a run for the candidature. Although he has been criticised by lorry drivers, the unemployed and other protesting groups since he took office in the spring, M. Bérégovoy has managed to project an image of a man of the people. As the author of France's economic austerity in the 1980s, he also has support of the business classes.

The referendum served to

reinforce the decay of the Socialists' base and speed their probable break-up into a liberal-Christian Democratic movement, which could rally around M. Delors, and a social democratic and ecological tendency that would back M. Rocard. From being the biggest party in the 1980s, the Socialists are now supported by only one in five voters and are expected to lose heavily in the parliamentary elections.

Its old left wing is on the verge of attaching itself to Jean-Pierre Chevénement. The former defence minister led the dissident "no" campaign in the referendum and was threatened with expulsion yesterday. He disowned his fellow Socialists on Wednesday, saying that the government had abandoned the workers and the poor and taken the side of "rentiers who

grow rich in their sleep, stockbrokers and speculators".

On the other side, Jacques Chirac, head of the neo-Gaullist RPR party and front-runner as opposition candidate, is fighting to preserve his authority over a party that largely disobeyed his call for a "yes" vote on Maastricht. M. Chirac, the mayor of Paris and a former prime minister, won a heavy vote of confidence at a party council on Wednesday night, but Philippe Séguin and Charles Pasqua, the two dissident barons who opposed Maastricht, refused to attend and their knives are out.

Power in future elections, it seems, will go to the party or the man who best bridges the gulf between the "two Frances" that the referendum differentiated so sharply.

Battle for franc, page 19



Guigou: is sponsoring Delors' new fan club

Envoy try to prevent 'ethnic cleansing'

Bosnia and Croatia sign defence pact

BY TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CYRUS Vance and Lord Owen, the peace envoys of the international community, are to visit the Serb city of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia today as diplomats efforts to bring the war to an end appear close to collapse.

In New York Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, signed a defence accord with Franjo Tudjman, his Croatian counterpart, while Serb leaders said that now was the time to take the future into their own hands.

Mr Vance, the United Nations envoy, and Lord Owen, the European Community's mediator, are to visit Banja Luka to try to forestall the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims and Croats from the city. Banja Luka has long been a citadel of the most hardened of Bosnian Serb leaders. Jet fighters bequeathed by the Yugoslav Air Force to the Bosnian Serbs can fly bombing runs from Banja Luka secure now that the UN has put off a decision about a "no-fly zone" in Bosnia.

Tens of thousands of Muslims have been "ethnically cleansed" from villages and

small towns around Banja Luka but the majority of its Muslims — and some Croats — remain in their homes.

It has been announced from Banja Luka that the parliaments of the self-proclaimed Serbian republics in Bosnia and the breakaway enclaves in Croatia, were to call for a referendum on union. The union of the two Serb enclaves is the first step to what Serb politicians call a Union of Serbian Lands. Out of deference to those Montenegrins, who do not count themselves as Serbs, such a state is likely to retain the name of Yugoslavia.

On Wednesday, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said that if a Bosnian confederation of all three of the republic's nationalities did not materialise "then I think we should look at a Union of Serbian Lands".

The rump state of Yugoslavia was thrown out of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) based in Geneva yesterday after its expulsion from the UN General Assembly earlier in the week. The IAEA — the United

Nations' nuclear safety watchdog — passed a resolution at its annual general conference suspending Yugoslavia from the current meeting and demanding that it apply for membership. But IAEA officials said the rump Yugoslavia could continue to work with the agency at a practical level while the membership issue was resolved.

• Nato offer: After a meeting in Brussels, Nato has offered to provide headquarters staff and expertise to guarantee effective command and control of the 6,000 additional troops being sent to Bosnia Herzegovina as UN food convoy escorts.

Britain is to give another £7.5 million to victims of the war in former Yugoslavia. Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister said yesterday. This will bring Britain's total humanitarian assistance to more than £35 million. The money will also pay for medical supplies worth £330,000 donated through the World Health Organisation, to be delivered when Lady Chalker visits Bosnia next week.

In Vaison alone, 21 people were killed and at least 30 houses and a campsite were destroyed. Telephone and electricity lines to 30,000 homes were gradually being restored yesterday. (Reuters)

French flood toll nears 80

FROM THIERRY CAYOL IN VAISON-LA-ROMAINE

WITH hopes of finding more survivors dimming, rescue officials yesterday feared that nearly 80 people died in this week's fierce storms and flash floods in southeast France.

"Technically there is no chance of finding anybody else alive," Yves Cavalier, head of the rescue operation in Vaison-la-Romaine, the worst affected town, said.

Some 33 people were killed and at least 43 are missing after rivers in the Ardèche, Drôme and Vaucluse regions burst their banks on Tuesday.

The floods devastated towns and campsites, sucked up vehicles and buried them over submerged bridges. Onlookers watched horrified as people trapped in cars and cars sank in floodwater.

One pedestrian crossing the old Roman bridge in Vaison when the floods struck chung to a road sign for three hours before being torn away.

An exhausted mother fighting the current dropped her baby and watched him drown.

In Vaison alone, 21 people were killed and at least 30 houses and a campsite were destroyed. Telephone and electricity lines to 30,000 homes were gradually being restored yesterday. (Reuters)



Off the road: rescue workers at Vaison-la-Romaine yesterday inspecting the wreckage of a British-registered car left high and dry by Tuesday's flash floods

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pretoria refusing to budge

Johannesburg: The South African government has refused to give in to the African National Congress's demands for the release of disputed political prisoners without some agreement on an amnesty for crimes committed by state officials under apartheid. (Michael Hamlyn writes)

Talks have continued over some two weeks between Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, and Roelf Meyer, the constitutional development minister, on the ANC's demands for substantial progress on the issue before Nelson Mandela, its president, can join President de Klerk for talks to discuss township violence.

Admirals go

Washington: Two US Navy admirals resigned and a third is to be reassigned in the wake of a Pentagon report accusing them of "tumulting" a report into alleged sexual misconduct at a pilots' convention. (AP)

Ring smashed

Rome: Italian counter-intelligence, following a tip in *Rude Krav* (Red Cow), the Prague magazine, has smashed a Czechoslovak spy ring allegedly run in Italy by the former wife of an Italian diplomat.

Collor loses

Rio de Janeiro: President Collor de Mello of Brazil, facing impeachment for corruption, has suffered a serious defeat. The supreme court has rejected his appeal for a secret ballot in Congress on a petition to suspend him.

Hostage freed

Tegucigalpa: Orlando Ordonez, a former Honduran rebel freed Luis Fisherman, the Costa Rican interior minister, here and flew to Mexico. Earlier, he had freed a police chief and a bishop he had held hostage. (AP)

Back in office

Hanoi: Vo Van Kiet, 69, Vietnam's reformist prime minister, the sole candidate, has been re-elected by the national assembly for a five-year term. (Reuters)

War threat

Moscow: Georgia's state council threatened to start a "real war" if its ultimatum for the withdrawal by today of south Russian armed groups from the rebel region of Abkhazia is ignored. (Reuters)

Husain home

Amman: Jordanians gave a thunderous welcome to King Husain, 57, when he returned to a banner-bedecked capital after undergoing cancer surgery in America.

Pressure increases on Gaidar

FROM ANNE McELROY IN MOSCOW

HARDLINERS in the Russian Supreme Soviet vowed yesterday that they would pursue a no-confidence motion against Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister, after failing to force a vote in the opening days of the new parliament.

Mr Gaidar, whose tough reforms have incurred the wrath of the industrial lobby, as well as nationalists claiming that he is selling out Russia to the West, came under heavy pressure yesterday to alter the course of his reforms.

The rouble fell for the second time in a week yesterday following a slump on Tuesday. Lithuania announced yesterday that it would replace the rouble with coupons due to fears that the Russian economy is about to be overwhelmed.

The popularity of Stalin is rising as hardships worsen, *Moskovskaya Pravda* said yesterday. Nearly half of those polled said Gaidar was a great leader compared with 28 per cent last year. Two-thirds said that socialism was a superior system.

Romanians hope for change after polls

FROM ADAM LEBOV IN BUCHAREST

IN THE network of subterranean passages that criss-cross Bucharest's University Square peddlars hawk American cigarettes, cold drinks, snacks and newspapers. This is capitalism in embryonic form.

But as Romania turns towards a free-market economy it still has not shaken off the shackles of the communist past. The walkways into the metro station are strewn with litter, and are ill-lit — a legacy of the infrastructure under the Ceausescu dictatorship.

However, expectations are high that after elections at the weekend life will improve. The opposition, in particular, is hoping that the front will be defeated and that the next president will be Emil Constantinescu, the candidate of the Democratic Convention.

In Bucharest at least, signs of growth are evident with shops and cafés opening up. Foreign car manufacturers have set up showrooms and both Pepsi and Coca-Cola have invested heavily. Perhaps the best sign Romania is coming in from the cold is a Michael Jackson concert planned for October 1.

• Gipsy accord: Germany and Romania yesterday reached an agreement on the deportation of tens of thousands of asylum seekers, many of them gypsies, back to Romania. Up to August this year more than 57,000 Romanians sought refuge in Germany, for a bottle of soft drinks.

Germans charge spymaster with treason

BY ANNE McELROY

Markus Wolf, East Germany's former spy master, was charged yesterday with treason on 12 counts relating to his work over three decades at the head of one of the world's most successful intelligence networks.

The news that the federal authorities finally have pinned something on Herr Wolf two years after unification will be received withudging enthusiasm by their security networks. On the other hand, there remains an appetite for revenge against the man who, in the admission of one senior officer of the Bundesnachrichten

büro, was charged with espionage using seduction and blackmail.

A suave 69-year-old bon viveur with a liking for chess, fine wood suits and literary conversation, he grew up in a communist family — his father was the playwright Friedrich Wolf.

The family emigrated to Moscow during the Third Reich. He grew up speaking both German and Russian and identifying himself with both countries.

On the eve of unification, he fled to Moscow to avoid arrest. There he enjoyed the protection of Vladimir Kruchkov, head of the KGB. When Mr Kruchkov was arrested as the ringleader of the failed coup, Herr Wolf was left without support. The new masters in the Kremlin made it clear that they would no longer extend protective hospitality towards him and he gave himself up last September.

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Tripped up at the worst time

The government has been shaken to its foundations, writes Peter Riddell

The political scene looked startlingly transformed yesterday. Instead of a self-confident prime minister loudly cheered by his own supporters crushing an ineffective leader of the opposition and his dispirited troops, the roles were reversed. John Major came out fighting for a pro-European stance, but he failed to convince many of his own backbenchers whose faces reflected their own doubts about the direction of government policy. By contrast, John Smith fulfilled all his party's hopes in a powerful Commons debut as Labour leader as he ridiculed the twists and turns of the past fortnight. And, in the background, there was the end of the David Mellor saga which has distracted the prime minister and sapped his authority at the worst possible time.

Mr Smith, of course, will seldom have an easier task than yesterday. Mr Major and Norman Lamont are having to eat volumes of words they have uttered over the past two years about the virtues of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) and the dire consequences of any alternative, the cut-and-run option of a floating pound as the Chancellor said only a few weeks ago. Yesterday's debate showed that the forced exit from the ERM cannot just be dismissed as a temporary blip. It

has shaken the foundations of the government's economic strategy and foreign policy. Having to defend a reversal of policy and to lose a close friend from the cabinet within a few hours will leave its scars. The prime minister will not easily or quickly rebuild his power or authority.

Mr Major's difficulty is that his whole premiership has rested on his claims to head the riffs of the later Thatcher years over the ERM and Europe. These divisions have now re-opened. Unlike the Thatcher era, the differences are being aired in the Cabinet itself, which as Michael Heseltine said this week, with evident feeling, is now no rubber stamp. By all accounts, there have been lively discussions at recent Cabinet meetings.

The majority of the Cabinet, led by Mr Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke, believe that sterling's suspension from the ERM should only be temporary, preferably a few months, and that the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty should not be abandoned. The minority, including Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and, to a lesser extent, Michael Portillo, believe the current opportunity should be used to establish a more detached position within the EC. Mr Lamont has acrobatically moved to make the best of life after the ERM.

In combative form yesterday Mr Major aligned himself with the majority of the Cabinet over Maastricht, to the evident displeasure of the more fervent anti-treaty Tories. His conditions, requiring a clarifi-

The Mellor saga has distracted the prime minister and sapped his power and authority

The danger is that Mr Major's attempt to find a middle way will fail, that he will be forced to take sides, against a group of his own backbenchers, and possibly some members of his own Cabinet. A nightmare parallel for him is the experience of Arthur Balfour, a similarly skilful tactician who took over 90 years ago as Tory leader, after another long-serving prime minister and who faced a deep split over free trade versus protection. His attempts to resolve the dispute led to the departure from his cabinet both of the leading free traders headed by the Duke of Devonshire and of the tariff reformers led by Joseph Chamberlain, which contributed to the collapse of his government in 1905. Mr Major does not face such serious divisions yet, but he will need all his skills at managing his cabinet over the bumpy few weeks ahead.

Mr Major and Mr Lamont's current position is similar to that of the Wilson government after the 1967 devaluation. Then also there was a hull for a few days immediately after the announcement when ministers pretended everything was all right before the seriousness of the setback became apparent.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead notes in his *A Life at the Centre*: "a spuriously good face was being put on a major national defeat. A long and desperate stand is not compatible with treating the subsequent retreat as being of little importance." The current government will also pay a high price, economically and politically, for the events of the past 10 days.

cation of the Danish attitude and implementation of specific EC criteria to limit the scope of Brussels intervention in the life of member states, can probably be achieved. But, in a careful balancing act, Mr Major took account of the views of the minority when he was vaguer about when sterling will return to the ERM and about what is needed to make the mechanism work in a way acceptable to Britain.

For all the warnings yesterday by Mr Major and Mr Lamont that life outside the ERM would not be easy, that risks would not be taken with inflation and that public spending would be kept under firm control, the government remains vulnerable to the charge that it has changed economic policy. There is a risk of faster growth in the short-to-medium term and a squeeze in 1994-95. Whatever happens, Mr Major faces divisions within his own party, which are likely to resurface at the party conference early next month. Beyond that, his hope must be that the EC summits in Birmingham, in mid-October, and later in Edinburgh, in mid-December, will put the Community back on course with a new emphasis on a more decentralised EC, making possible the revival of a broadly acceptable version of the Maastricht bill this winter or spring.

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...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I do believe that, in a reversal of our normal roles which at least one of us finds deeply unsettling, the world is trying to tell me something.

Not the whole world, mind: just the part that coughs. The part that graws its knuckle on public transport, gets glared at in restaurants, shouted at in shops, and sneered at in general; that finds itself being sharply reminded by boozed-faced toasts that Her Majesty has not yet been toasted; that leaves its seat halfway through a film, stands out in the rain for a bit, then comes back in and asks its companion what's been happening so that everyone else can point out that some of them have come here to see the picture. And, since, the more beleaguered it becomes, the more it sees itself as an oppressed minority, it does what all such victims do: it forms protest movements, lobby groups, and catchy acronyms, and sets out to button-hole hacks in the name of justice.

Now, this part of the world is itself split into three distinct subdivisions: for, as with most dissidents, they have been forced by the need for common strength to join common cause, when each would prefer to hoe its own little row. Let us call these three the Popular Front for the Liberation of Cigarettes, the Ad Hoc Pipe Solidarity Collective, and the Cigar Volunteer Force, and then let us wonder why, by what cannot be coincidence, representatives of each wrote to me on Wednesday. Clearly, they are up to something: possibly, this being the season, they have held some

The English don't care for those who have "got on". The Welsh, Scots and Irish take a different view, as do most other nationalities. We therefore take a certain pleasure if our leaders are found out in peccadillo or error and we will believe things about them that we would never accept as the truth about our friends and neighbours.

Once again a fit of public morality led by the tabloid press has brought down a minister. David Mellor's resignation last night must make us ponder the exacting demands we make upon our leaders and ask ourselves whether it is not the readers and editors with their prurient interest in his private life who are really devaluing standards in public life.

Often our own failings are faintly dull and our excitements muted: theirs must be exotic — Chelsea strip, toes and whips. This enjoyment of the feet of clay contributes towards our fond assertion that they are no better than anyone else and certainly they are not better than us. As we read of King Edward VIII, John Profumo or, in the past few weeks, David Mellor, a sense of self-satisfaction glows in the English heart: I told you so.

Add this to what Macaulay called

"the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality" and we have an explosive mixture, needing only to be stirred and then ignited. The wielders of the spoon were, of course, the editors of the tabloid newspapers who seemed determined to bring Mr Mellor down.

The more suspicious among us will recollect that lurking among Mr Mellor's varied responsibilities was that for newspapers. He was waiting for David Cawth's committee to advise him on the need for a privacy law, and he warned of what might come. He told the editors that they were drinking in "the last chance" saloon. Naturally they were hell-bent on getting him to the bar and out into the street first. We cannot blame them. If they could destabilise Mr Mellor and his department, then his successor might well be reluctant to take on those aspects of press abuse which have so far escaped the Press Council and the Press Complaints Commission. Of course they stir the explosive mixture.

The backbenchers of the Conser-



Macaulay: mocked hypocrisy

ative Party assembled the killing. The prime minister lit the match. We have given way to shoddy forces in our national life to envy and curiosity, to the doubtful attitude of a country without religion, and to vendetta. But what has become of our innate fairness which says "enough is enough"?

Mr Mellor has been foolish, and has admitted as much. He enjoyed office. He believed in mixing fun

THE TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1992

Bill Westwood praises the courage of David Mellor who went down fighting

When the fun ran out

with power, but forgot that the 1960s are long gone. His track record in office was solid. His handling of the intricacies and rivalries leading up to the broadcasting bill showed a firm touch. In his recent besieged state he exhibited an admirable courage and self-assurance. The fact that he managed to hold his pugilistic instincts in check after so much provocation from the media should be counted for righteousness.

The real, indeed the only, question, which should have been asked about Mr Mellor is the one about his abilities and effectiveness as a minister and member of Cabinet. As a nation we employed him: we did not buy him.

His sexual failings are the concern of Mrs Mellor and their children alone. The wisdom of his holiday arrangements are the business of the prime minister and the Cabinet secretary. If Mrs Mellor feels that the one has destroyed their marriage, that is a tragedy — it always is. If Mr Major feels that the other has rendered Mr Mellor

unfit for office, that is a sadness — as the country is not over-stocked just now with men of talent. However, our prurient curiosity, which newspaper editors understand better than professional moralists, hardly qualifies us to say that Mr Mellor has let us down morally. Let Mr Mellor down, yes. Let Mrs Mellor down, yes. But let us down — really! Our record as thieves, our divorce rate, our illegitimacy figures, our level of crime, our delight in lies and gossip hardly qualify us as moral arbiters.

I would have hoped that Mr Mellor might have behaved differently as I would hope that everyone in the nation might behave differently. He was foolish. He said that he was sorry.

That he has had to resign because the public perception of him somehow or other might damage the party is dangerous. It is time that public relations principles ceased to govern our public life. I wish that Mr Major had stood fast.

There is a Spanish proverb: "Take what you like, and pay for it". I think that Mr Mellor has paid more than enough.

The author is Bishop of Peterborough.

A presidential pillow fight

America's real issues are being ignored, says Anthony Howard

The first US presidential election for which I had a ringside seat was that which brought John F. Kennedy to office over 30 years ago. There ought, I keep telling myself, to be affinities between that contest and the present one. Bill Clinton is, after all, barely older than Jack Kennedy was in 1960, like his forerunner he is trying to end a substantial period of Republican rule in the White House, and, moreover, he can claim also to share with his predecessor a certain disdain for the more traditional tenets of American liberalism.

But somehow the analogy never quite works out. The contrasts, in fact, outweigh the similarities. Take the question of personality first. For all his charm, Governor Clinton remains a much less sharply defined politician than Senator Kennedy was at the equivalent stage of his career. And maybe the distinction in their respective titles — and political backgrounds — tells us something about that.

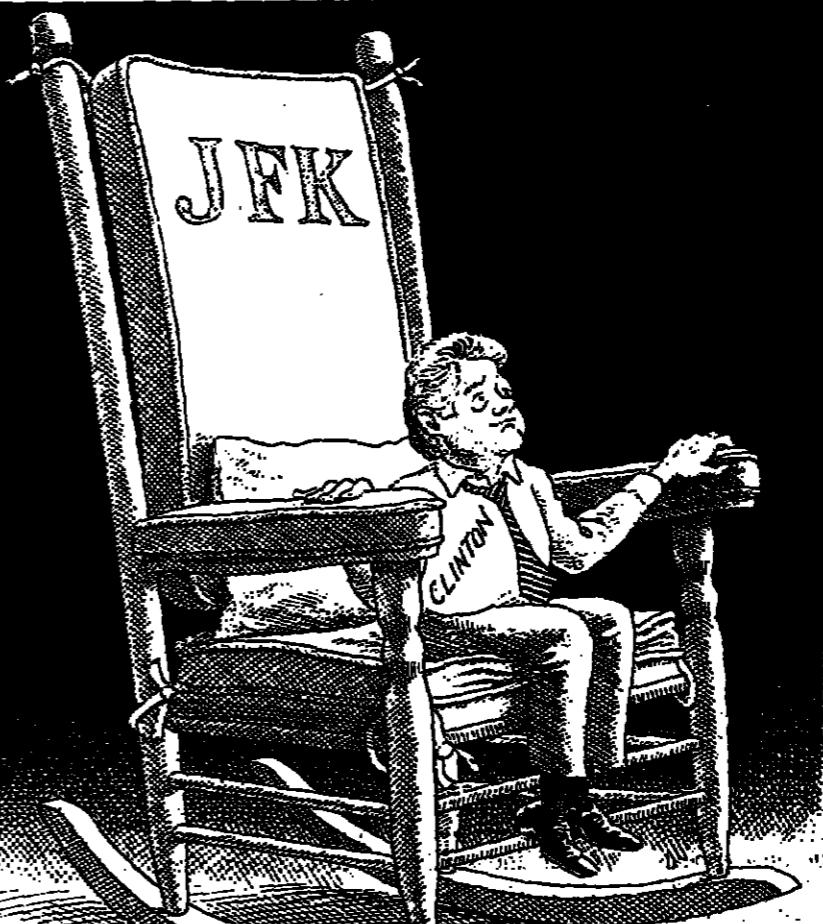
In 1960 it was generally accepted that the entire future of presidential politics would lie with members of the Senate (indeed, that year's election was fought between two senators on one side and two senators on the other). The days when worthy men like Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt, could vault straight from governors' mansions in New Jersey or New York straight into the White House, had we were assured, gone for good. A modern president required greater and wider experience of the world than that provided by the poor-barrel politics of the nation's various state houses.

Yet what has happened? Suddenly gubernatorial presidential candidates have bounded back into fashion again. Ronald Reagan came to the presidency — after a brief period as a private citizen — from the governorship of California: more than that, both Bill

Clinton and his immediate predecessor as Democratic standard-bearer, Michael Dukakis, secured their successive nominations from their party solely on the basis of their executive experience in charge of much smaller states. The same, for that matter, went for the last Democrat actually to occupy the White House, Jimmy Carter. His only credentials for gaining the nation's highest office rested on his record as a one-term governor of Georgia.

Why, then, did the pundits and constitutional prophets of 30 years ago get it so wrong? The answer, I suspect, provides one clue to the nature of the present campaign. What has taken place — and it has happened gradually and imperceptibly enough for it to have escaped being widely noticed — is the total professionalisation of the American presidential process. How to become president has become in effect a small cottage industry in itself.

State governors provide the best on-the-job training for aspiring presidential candidates, it is for a very good and practical reason. The individual states, after all, control the rulebooks for the yearly contests — when primaries should be held, what number of states should participate in a conclusive and crushing super Tuesday, the way in which convention delegates can be split, even the ethnic and gender representation that should be regarded as appropriate. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that state governors should have emerged as the new kings of



the castle. Bill Clinton, with his 12-year record as governor or Arkansas behind him, is as much a product of the new system as John Kennedy, with his 14-year legislative background on Capitol Hill, was of the old.

Yet, paradoxically, the new professional players are not the all-round performers their predecessors were. A state governor, for example, does not even feel required to sound particularly *au fait* with foreign policy and Mr Clinton himself does not claim to be any exception. Even on a five contemporary issue, such as the

creation of a North American Free Trade Agreement, he still simply cheerfully maintains that he has not, yet had time to read the proposed treaty. Compare and contrast, as the exam papers say, the stand which Kennedy took against the French and in favour of the FLN in Algeria in the 1950s — for no better reason than he felt it to be part of his responsibilities to hold a view.

It is not all that different when it comes to domestic policies either. A good example here is provided by the question of health care. Everyone knows that the current ar-

and Margaret Thatcher left her junior minister in no doubt as to her displeasure at his lack of judgement. The object of Mellor's wrath is still a serving member of the Israeli army and as such cannot be identified or go on the record. But an Israeli army spokesman said: "His English is not totally fluent and although he wasn't able to reply he knew he was being insulted. Since then he has been promoted to full colonel status — which of course had absolutely nothing to do with the Mellor incident".

Bill Clinton, by contrast, seems almost content to rest his case on the simple, obvious fact that he is not George Bush. As a tactic it may be just enough to do the trick for him on polling day. But what if it will prove to have done for the vitality of the American electoral process is quite another question.

Keeping the wolf from the door

ONE of the most urgent tasks facing David Mellor, as he returned to the back benches last night, is to find alternative well paid employment. With his salary halving overnight, Mellor, one of the least wealthy members of the Cabinet, will not be able to survive as a mere backbencher.

With a wife, Judith, who does not work, two children, and only a modest house in Putney, one attraction of clinging so stubbornly to office was clearly the £63,041 government salary. Having gone into government at the early age of 31 he never had time, unlike many of his colleagues, to make a fortune in the private sector before taking high office.

Mellor, who was called to the Bar in 1972, is almost certainly contemplating a return to the legal profession, although he has not paid his annual £800 subscription to the Bar for several years. He used to practise at 6 Pump Court, Inner Temple, in chambers headed by Bernard Hargrove, who is now a judge. His name has long since been taken off the door plate. "I don't know if he is coming back," said one employee of the chambers, which specialises in common law, last night. "We must not say anything."

One senior lawyer said: "Of course he can go back to the bar. There is a convention that any barrister who becomes an MP, whether rotten he may be, can become a QC".

However, Lord Williams, chairman of the Bar Council, was more generous and believes Mellor would be an asset to the profession. "There is an infinite variety of different people practising at the Bar. David Mellor is a man of

great ability and intelligence. If he wants to return to the Bar he would be very welcome. The Bar is a very tolerant and civilised place which will not pass judgment on him."

Survival techniques

TOO late for David Mellor but possibly in time to save Norman Lamont and John Major. Lord McAlpine will next month publish his long-awaited handbook on how to survive in the cut-throat world of modern politics.

One of Lady Thatcher's closest advisers throughout the eighties, McAlpine takes as his model Machiavelli's *The Prince* to produce *The Servant*, a code of conduct for the modern politician. Dedicated to "the most magnificent Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven" and mostly written in the early 1980s, McAlpine's book is relevant to the government's current difficulties.

The root of political trouble, he writes, lies in the fact that politicians are human but may not behave like other humans", a sentiment with which Mellor will readily identify. "The advice is very apposite to poor David Mellor," said McAlpine. "When I wrote it I had no idea he would be getting into such trouble."

The prime minister will also find McAlpine full of useful instruction. Every prime minister requires the "idea", McAlpine writes. It matters little

what the idea is merely that it exists. "If the prime minister finds that after a time other men have frustrated his intention of carrying out his idea and so decided to change his idea, then he must cease to be the prime minister". Let us hope the idea was not monetary union.

The wise prince makes only one judgement on his servants: "Did you succeed?" If the answer is no, the servant must be sacrificed and might instead turn his hand to gardening, a wonderful occupation for retired politicians". Whether Mellor has green fingers is not known but Lamont almost certainly does not, given the non-appearance of the much-promised green shoots. Possibly he could learn.

"The most famous garden in Su Chou was created by a Chinese chancellor of the exchequer... while temporarily retired from politics," McAlpine writes. "It is too late for Mellor but I think Lamont could find the book very useful."

• *Almost unnoticed*, Neil Kinnock took his seat on the back benches for the first time in more than 13 years yesterday. Who did he choose to sit next to? Peter Mandelson, of course, the new MP for Hartlepool, and architect of the red rose revolution which many Labour MPs say put presentation before policy and thus lost Labour the election. Kinnock obviously doesn't think so.

Bitter bit

IT is not only at home that David Mellor's political enemies are rejoicing. In Israel, where they are celebrating the Jewish New Year, one individual in particular is delighted. He is the lieutenant-colonel who was berated by Mellor, then a junior foreign office minister, over the state of the Palestinian refugee camps during a visit to the Gaza Strip in January 1988. The incident caused an enormous row

To great glee Smith brandished the follow-up reply to the union on August 27. "You may be unaware that the commitment given by the Prime Minister on this matter was drafted incorrectly during the frenetic activity of the general election." Luckless Lucy, wrote the letter.



MELLOR AND MAJOR

The first announcement of David Mellor's resignation last night took just one line. This was the only part of the story whose scale matched its essentially modest import.

It does matter a little who holds the heritage ministry. It does matter a little that a junior member of the Cabinet should lose his colleagues' confidence over a tawdry series of affairs and free holidays. But the fate of Mr Mellor ought not, by any reasonable standards, to matter much.

Yesterday, however, as the House of Commons debated the economy, as the prime minister struggled to re-establish his lost authority throughout the country, the most-uttered words at Westminster were: "When will Mellor go?". The answer came just before six o'clock, which had the useful effect, in Tory eyes, of driving Mr Major's own indifferent performance in the economic debate from the top of the early evening broadcast news. This sense of relief was understandable. But it will not last. It only underlined the current sense of a government stumbling from one moment of instant gratification to another.

Mr Major's main line of defence yesterday was to link the failure of his own policies with the support that those policies had previously been given by the Opposition. The House was not a "debating chamber but an echo chamber," he sneered. He offered no new sense of government purpose beyond his more clearly expressed doubts about future exchange-rate mechanisms. He claimed the opposition of his own "Eurosceptics" but did little to reassure the country on another day of disastrous job losses at the heart of British industry.

The debate was a brutal reminder that barely two years ago the prime minister was but a blank face on the cartoonist's sketchpad, an unknown quantity in the public scales. Before last week he had successfully shaded himself some political character, that of a man more amenable to Chancellor Kohl than Margaret Thatcher had been that of a man more clubbable on the jet-set summity circuit, that of an ordinary man serving ordinary voters in an extraordinary job.

If his policies had been a solid success, he would still be defined by them. But they have not been. His attempt to craft a personality to put before the country has been undone. The blank hole behind the square glasses

has returned — ready to be refilled with whatever political crayons lie at hand. That has been the reason why the fate of David Mellor has seemed so important this week. The prime minister's loyalty to his flawed personal friend has been as dogged as his devotion to his flawed economic course. That simple state of stubbornness has come to define him.

If a prime minister has more deep friendships around his Cabinet table than he has deeply rooted policies, he risks being judged by his choice of chums not by his achievements. Mr Mellor hardly helped Mr Major on Wednesday night by his doomed attempt to turn his fate as "fun minister" into a "who rules Britain?" parody of the Tory past. Newspaper editors certainly played their part in the exposure of the heritage secretary's private life. But it was presumptuous for Mr Mellor to elevate his plight into a clash over "who chooses the Cabinet?", the country's elected leader or the editor of *The Daily Mail*.

It was also extremely unhelpful to Mr Major, whose pride may still be his downfall. The Maastricht bill, the House was told, must be brought back for ratification sooner than expected, because he, Major himself, had signed his name to it. A referendum, he said, could not be justified because the treaty won approval by his victory at the general election.

For the Labour Opposition in Parliament, still struggling to come to terms with its election defeat, yesterday was a sweet taste of things possibly to come. What a difference a change of leader makes! As soon as John Smith rose to his feet it was clear that the Conservative leader would never again be able to rely, as Mrs Thatcher under pressure always could, on the weak advocacy of the man across the aisle. Mr Smith deployed his forensic skills to batter Mr Major for lame excuses and absent apologies. He put his best points well, pointing out that to blame speculators for the run on the pound did nothing to explain why the pound was the most vulnerable currency in the first place.

The substance was less than the style. The Labour leader will never do mortal damage to the prime minister until he has a more coherent economic policy himself. But even lawyer's logic-chopping can cause harm to a prime minister who is still going backwards in his attempts to define who he really is.

A ROLLS-ROYCE SOLUTION

Too many people have thought of too many reasons for not buying a Rolls-Royce. Apart from its unchallenged status as an official limousine, the Rolls marque now appeals more as a symbol of conspicuous luxury than because of the car's intrinsic qualities. These remain superb but are no longer considered technically the best in the world. New "Rollers" have begun to be shunned by wealthy landowners and captains of industry, appealing instead to flamboyant entrepreneurs and the newly rich.

No wonder the recession has hit the company badly. Sales this year will be less than half the peak of 3,300 reached in 1990 and little more than the annual average rate of production since 1904. Sales in Japan, which had become the fastest growing market as the stock market boomed there, have collapsed with share prices in Tokyo, demonstrating the new-found fragility of a customer base that was once the envy of rivals for its solidity. Competition has also grown, notably from the top models of Mercedes whose annual research and development budget exceeds the whole turnover of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Vickers, the engineering group that owns Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, has responded to the ensuing losses with the safety first mentality that is now the hallmark of British managers in the recessionary 1990s. Rather than chasing sales, it has cut costs to fit reduced circumstances, so that Rolls-Royce can make a profit on 1,400 cars a year, against 2,700 two years ago. It has more than halved the labour force, losing nearly 3,000 mostly highly-skilled jobs, but has greatly improved production methods.

Further ahead, this symbol of British

engineering quality is still in danger of becoming another symbol of its decline. The company has progressively retreated to a smaller and smaller niche in the market. That policy yielded high returns on capital for many years, but only, as in much of British industry, because the company did not invest enough capital in machinery, development and expansion. In the end, Rolls painted itself into a corner.

It is reduced to selling expensive dreams as much as functional motor cars. It must stretch aging model lines. It lacks the resources to build a new generation of products or to have the volume of sales needed to command component suppliers to spring to attention. Even among engineers, the "Rolls-Royce solution" is a by-word for an uneconomic quest for theoretical perfection that is no longer functional or acceptable.

Vickers knows that, once more normal conditions return, it must look for a bigger partner or even a new owner to take Rolls-Royce Motors into the next century. As the recession deepened, it abandoned talks with companies such as BMW and Toyota, which have the technical and financial resources to help Rolls catch up. That partner is unlikely to be British. It must however be acceptable to Rolls-Royce plc, the aero-engine group that owned the car firm until its predecessor went bust in 1971, and still owns the ultimate right to the priceless brand name.

Rolls-Royce will never compete with Ford. But if it is not to sink into the twilight as a mobile tourist attraction of Old England, it will need to study the market and produce cars that the wealthy will buy for their fitness for purpose, not for their name.

OPEN CRICKET

The cricket season has closed but the files remain open on its most contentious issue. The inertia, indifference or blind panic that has gripped the game's authorities in dealing with the problem of players "altering the condition of the ball" — the name for cheating — seemed at last to have been relieved yesterday by some good, straightforward muscle. Surrey County Cricket Club was fined £1,000 for three reported instances of ball tampering.

Appearances, however, were deceptive. Nobody will identify the culprits or the methods used to gain an unfair advantage. The fine, imposed by a disciplinary panel of the Test and County Cricket Board, has been suspended for two years, thus acting as no more than a bond for good behaviour.

Such leniency contrasts with the draconian fines, totalling £8,000, imposed earlier this week on Allan Lamb, whose crime was to have cheated but to have accused someone else of doing so. It also now transpires that Surrey were first reported by umpires as long ago as 1990, and that a further complaint was filed by two different umpires in 1991. On neither occasion was any punishment issued, nor was it deemed desirable to make the matter public.

Those who run our national summer sport are failing those for whom it is run. Cricket is a public game. It is played as an entertainment for those who pay to watch, and those whose enjoyment is merely in following it and dissecting its scores and issues.

These people, the lifeblood of the game, could be forgiven for thinking that cricket is in the hands of those who believe in secrecy above all.

What else can explain the silence of the International Cricket Council, which has refused to clarify and endorse the umpires' decision at Lord's last month when the ball was changed during the luncheon interval of a one-day international between England and Pakistan? They could not even make a simple statement saying whether the ball had been tampered with or not.

Instead, in the fashion so beloved of cricketing administrators, the ICC prevaricated. Writs from players who felt they had been slighted began to fly. A month later, Pakistan's name remains unclarified, the umpires' actions remain unclarified, and the public remains in ignorance.

The same attitude was displayed when the England selectors announced their party for the winter tour of India. They knew, of course, that the public would be outraged, rightly or wrongly, by the absence of David Gower. Yet Ted Dexter, chairman of the committee, immediately refused to discuss any player who had not been picked.

No wonder that the people who fill the stands at grounds around the country throughout the season are losing patience with cricket's administrators. Spectators feel they are being treated as if the game would be better off without them. They deserve more consideration than that.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BRYANT
(Wildlife officer),
League Against Cruel Sports,
Sparrow House,
83-87 Union Street, SE1.
September 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Arts salute for David Mellor

From Mr John Willan and others

Sir, In David Mellor we had a secretary of state committed to and with a deep understanding of the arts. Could we not have allowed him to get on with his job?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILLAN
(London Philharmonic Orchestra),
MIKE ATTENBOROUGH
(Royal Shakespeare Company),
C. GILLINSON
(London Symphony Orchestra),
JEREMY ISAACS
(Royal Opera House),
PETER JONAS
(English National Opera),
N. KENYON
(BBC Radio),
NICHOLAS SNOWMAN
(South Bank Centre).
ALAN YENTOB
(BBC Television),
35 Doughty Street, WC1.
September 24.

Licensing laws

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, Any difference between this institute (report, August 25) and Alcohol Concern (letter, September 7) over alcohol licensing appears to be one of degree rather than kind. We would welcome a comprehensive review of licensing laws in England and Wales, but question whether licensing is an appropriate method of control.

It is by no means self-evident that a control which has its origins in the protection of public revenue would be found wholly satisfactory in combating the health and public order problems which justify licensing now. Starting with a clean sheet of paper would permit proper consideration of the impact of alternative methods of control of alcohol consumption on all aspects of society, not least the market economy.

All licences protect established producers against new competitors. A new liquor licence may depend on establishing that a "need" exists.

Licensing discriminates against the smaller would-be market entrant. It should therefore be sparingly used.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MORGAN,
Director General,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Reviving high streets

From Mr Paul Davies

Sir, Walter Ellis ("Where the tough go shopping", Life & Times, September 21), consigns our high streets to the history books with hardly a glance at the effect of town-centre decline on our urban communities.

In the United States many "downtown" areas are unused and unsafe. The same is beginning to happen in this country, with increasingly derelict upper floors, empty retail space and crumbling public infrastructure.

If we give up on our high streets as victims of an inevitable shift in shopping habits, we risk paying a far greater price than lack of convenient shopping facilities. Empty public space breeds crime and fear of crime. Desereted high streets will lead to an increasing decline in the quality of urban life.

In over 800 US towns and cities economic development is being stimulated through public bodies, businesses, and local communities. Some 15,000 new main-street businesses have been established.

In Britain the Civic Trust is promoting a similar approach in places such as Tooting and Greenwich involving shopping, leisure and cultural facilities.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DAVIES
(Head, Regeneration Unit),
Civic Trust,
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.
September 22.

Controlling squirrels

From Mr John Bryant

Sir, In controlling any wild species which causes damage (letters, September 15, 21) there is a tendency to rely on killing to solve the problem.

There is no point in "controlling" grey squirrels if the cost of the control exceeds the cost of the damage caused by the squirrels. In the 1950s, tax-payers paid out for the killing of two million squirrels under a bounty scheme, with the result that there were more squirrels at the end of the exercise than there were at the beginning. Since then the government has rightly abandoned such schemes.

The grey squirrel is here to stay — indeed it is much admired by many people as an attractive addition to our wildlife. Efforts to provide attractive habitat for red squirrels should be enhanced and the killing of grey squirrels (if cost-effective) should be limited to the only time they cause real damage (summer months) and in only places they cause real economic damage (commercial timber forests).

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BRYANT
(Wildlife officer),
League Against Cruel Sports,
Sparrow House,
83-87 Union Street, SE1.
September 21.

Moving on from Tom Brown's days

From Miss Brontë Flecker

Sir, Boarding schools make ready targets for educational wit (leading article, September 15) and I would accept that all boarding experiences have been, or indeed are, happy ones on the other hand nor are all day school or even family experiences.

Boarding schools have changed greatly in the last 20 years and, given the range of parental choice in education today, will only succeed if they offer the stable, happy and stimulating environment that parents and children seek.

Boarding school provides children with the opportunity to concentrate on school-based activities without time-wasting travel. It offers the chance to make friends within a community which draws from all over the world. It develops an understanding of other races and religions, difficult to obtain in a smaller local community, and there is always something to do and someone with whom to do it. The care and teaching of teaching and house staff complements the role of the parents and the child benefits from the partnership.

As for the modern Cheltenham lady, I am delighted if she has the ability, confidence and determination of Baroness Thatcher (though, as you say, "no Cheltenham Lady she"). Yours sincerely,
ENID CASTLE, Principal,
The Cheltenham Ladies' College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Miss Annie Lear

Sir,

While I sympathise with Nick Duffell's childhood experiences (report, September 15) I can reassure him about the "repressive" boarding schools he describes. Since starting boarding at the age of seven I have lived among my friends, built up strong relationships with teachers and been encouraged to co-operate and to flourish. I have enjoyed gradually being presented with the challenge of decision-making and responsibilities which have cultivated my confidence and provided valuable experience. My living at school has heightened the mutual appreciation and support within my family.

Now at 17, I am excited by the future and far from being "ill-equipped to face the real world". Isn't it about time it was recognised just how much boarding schools have progressed and improved since Tom Brown's Schooldays?

Yours faithfully,
ANNIE LEAR
(Head of School),
Roedean, Brighton, East Sussex.

'Parsimony' over judges' pensions

From Lord Ackner

Sir, The near-total rejection of the July recommendations by the top salary review body (TSRB) is but one barrel of a gun about to be fired at the judges by government.

The other impending and more lethal discharge is to be found in the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Bill which will be again debated in the House of Lords at the end of next month.

The bill's proposal to increase the minimum period of judicial service from 15 years to 20 years for entitlement to a full pension (one half of the judicial salary) represents a 7.5 per cent reduction in pay. To this must be added the further proposal that the current guaranteed minimum pension of 25 per cent of salary be abolished. An independent consultant actuary has estimated that the combined effect of these proposals represents a reduction in salary of between 10 and 15 per cent. This does not take into account the further prejudicial proposal to base the pension, not as previously on the salary received over the year immediately before retirement.

Taking the top estimate of 15 per cent, the effect on the pay of senior judges appointed a few months hence, after the bill is enacted and is in force, will be a 4 per cent increase in the salary paid prior to April 1 (approximately 20 per cent of the figure recommended by the TSRB). A 15 per cent decrease following the implementation of the bill's provisions, and thus a net decrease of 11 per cent.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions as to the pensions payable on incapacity through illness or death during service, and the treatment of judges' widows and orphans are so parsimonious that they would not be acceptable in any modern pension scheme for top executives.

Yours faithfully,
ACKNER,
House of Lords.
September 23.

Economic priorities

From the Chairman of the London Churches Group

Sir, The financial anarchy of the past few weeks has left political parties divided and the reputation of economic experts dented. However, the principal victims continue to be the millions who are without secure jobs, adequate income and decent homes. Rather than seeking scapegoats in the exchange-rate mechanism, the Bundesbank or currency speculators, this is a moment to rethink our priorities.

High on the agenda of the London Churches Group, an ecumenical body in which members of all the nation's leading churches are represented, are the issues of poverty, community care, refugees and homelessness.

What better place to begin than with our housing policy? With homelessness at record levels and with hundreds of thousands of building workers unemployed, it is surely right, economically as well as morally, to begin getting our own economic house in order by embarking on a programme of increasing investment in affordable housing for rent.

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER MCCUALEY (Principal Information Officer, Bed and Breakfast Information Exchange), London Research Centre, 81 Black Prince Road, SE1.

From the Chairman of the Automobile Association

Sir, The Chancellor is expected to announce a reduction to the planned roads programme when he makes his autumn Budget statement (report, September 16). To do so would be folly.

Situated as we are on the edge of Europe, we must invest in new and improved roads to ensure access to key markets.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH CARR-ELLISON, Chairman, The Automobile Association, Fanum House, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Business letters, page 23

Overture for beginners

From the Director of the Ernest Read Music Association

Sir, The ambitious project in musical education, involving 16 orchestras and 40,000 primary school children described by Richard Morrison (September 15) is indeed a promising and imaginative initiative, a valuable widening of the work already being done by several orchestras with Arts Council and other funding.

Whether the "very survival of our culture, like the Festival Hall", really depends upon such projects, is more doubtful. For one thing, outreach work is expensive and is impossible to carry out without substantial grants and/or sponsorship, so is likely to remain limited.

OBITUARIES

SIR EDWARD NICHOLS

Sir Edward Nichols, TD, Town Clerk of the City of London, 1954-74, died on September 19 aged 80. He was born on September 27, 1911.

EDWARD Nichols was in the thick of ferment over the building plans for the Barbican development by the Corporation of London. The Barbican redevelopment was having an explosive effect on the Court of Common Council. Nichols, by then Town Clerk of the City of London, found himself in the midst of a welter of warring factions and disputation as to whether the Barbican should be built this way or that way or indeed at all.

He himself (quite a progressive and reformist in his own quiet way) was a supporter of the idea. He lent a steady but diplomatic influence towards its achievement which



even so took many years — too many years, some would think. Nichols was among them; he continued wrangling in committee disappointed him. Philistically never complaining, he continued to give tacit advice but never lost his dedication to a new concept which he believed was in the best interests not only of the Corporation of London but of the City itself.

His reforming zeal included the amalgamation of committees at Guildhall, the streamlining of Corporation administration, especially by means of computer, the realignment of departmental responsibilities and the stimulation of increased regard and respect for conservation. On

V. N. Pillai, retired United Nations consultant in criminology, died in Nottingham on September 2 aged 83. He was born in Ceylon on September 13, 1908.

VALLIPURAM Pillai, better known as "V. N.", was regarded by many, but particularly by the Japanese, as Asia's most outstanding criminologist. Former head of the United Nations Asia & Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime & the Treatment of Offenders (Unafei) in Tokyo, he was instrumental in establishing the institute, firstly as senior adviser in 1962 for two years and then as director for six years until 1970. The institute, the only United Nations institute of its kind, was established in Tokyo as a joint project between the UN and the Japanese government.

Earlier in his career Pillai was head of the prisons in Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was known until 1972. The late 1950s and early 1960s were a time of great political upheaval. In 1959 he detained the assassin of the prime minister, Solomon Bandaranaike, and some years later was responsible for detaining suspects in Sri Lanka's first attempted

conservation, however, he was an undoubted realist, once saying that "a living city" (the Corporation's proud boast) "cannot be forever looking over its shoulder". Although quite a catalyst, he remained nevertheless a very private person, conscientious, cool and collected, especially under stress.

He enjoyed philosophy, especially dealing with Chinese stamps, and put together a notable collection. He found solace from the hurly-burly of professional life in the open air. He was a keen gardener and a regular visitor to the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley near his home. He was a devotee of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and found further relaxation with his piano on which he frequently featured pre-war musical comedies.

Edward Henry Nichols was born in Mansfield and educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he played soccer for Cambridge University and for Cambridge Town. He was articled to the Town Clerk of Mansfield and on admission to the Roll in 1936 was appointed assistant solicitor to the Corporation of Derby. His tenure of office was interrupted by war service, four years of which were spent in service with the Royal Artillery abroad — in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, North Africa, and Italy. He was mentioned in dispatches and ended his war service with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

On returning to civilian life he took up his appointment as Deputy Town Clerk of Derby and for one year (1948-49) he was Deputy Town Clerk of Leicester. In 1949 he returned to Derby as Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace of that city. From 1954 until his retirement in 1974 he was Town Clerk of the City of London.

Nichols was knighted in 1972. He was the recipient of many foreign orders, including that of the Chevalier of the Order of the North Star of Sweden. He was a member of the City Livery Club.

In 1941, after a four weeks' engagement because the war was on and he was about to go overseas, he married Gwendolyn Elgar who, with their son Howard, survives him.

V. N. PILLAI

coup against Mrs Bandaranaike, who had succeeded her husband as leader of the dominant party in the ruling coalition and as prime minister. Pillai also established one of the world's first open prison camps in Kandy.

During his time in Tokyo he travelled extensively in the Asia Pacific region and Europe, conducting seminars in virtually every Asian country, even in South Vietnam during the war. Visiting experts who worked with him at Unafei included the late Baroness Barbara Wootton (deputy speaker of the House of Lords), and an expert on penal reform, Sir Arthur Peterson, former chairman of the Prison Commission for England and Wales, Myrl Alexander, director, United States' Federal Bureau of Prisons. Sir John Barry, Justice of the Supreme Court, Australia. Professor Israel Drapkin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. After retirement, he was invited as a consultant to Venezuela, India and Japan.

He lived a full life dedicated to his work and family. Born in Jaffna, a Tamil, he attended the Royal College in Colombo. After obtaining his BA (Hons) London degree at the University of Ceylon, he qualified as a lawyer and advocate and then joined the prisons department

James Alward Van Fleet, a US Army General who led his troops ashore on D-Day and later commanded the America forces in Korea, died on his ranch at Polk City, Florida, on September 23 aged 100. He was born in Coatesville, New Jersey, on March 19, 1892.

PRESIDENT Harry Truman called him "the greatest general we have ever had" when Van Fleet retired in 1953. "I sent him to Greece," said Truman, "and he won the war." In all, during the course of an Army career that lasted 42 years, James Van Fleet served in four wars and was always on the winning side.

Van Fleet was born to be a soldier. His grandfather, Joshua, fought with the New York militia against the British in the Revolutionary War. His father served with the Union forces during the Civil War. It was a natural course of events that he should go to the US military academy at West Point in 1911, joining a class that included Omar Bradley and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

It became known as "the class the stars fell on". Sixty-one cadets out of the 164 who graduated in 1915 ultimately became generals, but Van Fleet was hardly an outstanding student. He was placed 92nd in the class, having spent a good deal of time perfecting his skills as a football player.

When America entered the second world war, Van Fleet was sent to France in command of a machinegun battalion with the rank of captain. He took part in the fierce infantry fighting during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in October 1918 and was wounded in action a few days before the war ended.

The years between the wars were frustrating for the action-loving Van Fleet. His postings included commandant of cadets and chief football coach at the University of Florida; no prestige there of what was to come. But with the arrival of the second world war he found himself stationed in England as colonel in command of the 8th Infantry Regiment, waiting for the invasion of Normandy.

Van Fleet was 52 by this time, and his rank might have been higher but for the fact that General George C. Marshall, the Army Chief of Staff, confused him with another officer with a similar name who was known to be a heavy drinker. Four times he was recommended for promotion to brigadier-general, and each time he was turned down, while former classmates Eisenhower and Bradley added bunches of stars to their epaulettes. In fact, Van Fleet was a lifelong teetotaller.

The confusion meant that, despite his age, Van Fleet was at the head of his troops when they stormed ashore on Omaha Beach. He managed the operation with such skill that the combat team's objectives were gained with minimum loss of life, and he went on to lead the regiment through fierce fighting to capture Cherbourg and Brest. Twice wounded



ed, he continued to move his troops with such verve that in seven months he rose from regimental commander to corps commander. At last, he had his general's star.

Van Fleet commanded the 3rd US Army Corps during its drive to cross the Rhine at the bridge at Remagen and the subsequent thrust through Germany. He narrowly escaped death during the Battle of the Bulge when a shell struck the building in which he had taken cover near the front line: he was not one to issue orders from far behind his men.

After the war Van Fleet was named Deputy Chief of Staff of the US European Command in Frankfurt, and then, in 1950, with the mounting communist threat in Greece, he was sent to Athens as director of the Joint United States Military Advisory and Planning Group. There, his direct manner and complete lack of diplomatic subtlety cut through the political chaos, and he directed operations against the rebel guerrillas so effectively that, much to the relief of his president, that much to the relief of his president, the crisis ended within a few months.

In 1951 Van Fleet was given command of the 8th Army in Korea, succeeding Lieutenant General Matthew Ridgway after the latter had replaced the deposed General Douglas MacArthur as supreme commander. He led large-scale military operations that twice threw back commun-

ist attacks, and later complained bitterly to Congress that peace negotiations had prevented him from winning the war. "General Van Fleet," said one senior officer during the campaign, "is a foot-slogger. He's a mud soldier and a foxhole soldier."

Throughout his career, Van Fleet had a reputation for caring for and respecting the men under his command. "I never want to command by fear," he once said. "I never want to be accused of abuse of power. Power is given to you to exercise in a kindly way."

Nine years after his retirement, during which he became a successful businessman, Van Fleet was recalled to active duty by President Kennedy to serve as a consultant to the Defence Department in the early days of the Vietnam War. There, he caused a certain amount of consternation by making a public demand for the dismissal of Adlai Stevenson, America's chief delegate to the United Nations, for his failure to support the invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

Social niceties were not Van Fleet's forte. He preferred hunting and fishing, and his aim with a rifle was so deadly that he chose to hunt deer with a pistol. It was, he said, more sportsmanlike.

His only son, an Air Force pilot, was killed during the Korean War, and his wife died in 1984 at the age of 90.

DONALD GUTHRIE

Dr Donald Guthrie, Bible scholar, died on September 8 aged 76. He was born in Ipswich on February 21, 1916.

DONALD Guthrie was one of a rare variety, a New Testament scholar who won recognition from the academic world while standing outside the university system. He was whole-heartedly committed to the Bible and to the London Bible College, which he served for 43 years as successively, lecturer, senior lecturer, vice-principal and president. He joined the college's lecturing staff before completing his first degree, and never left it.

Guthrie's name is synonymous with his magisterial *New Testament Introduction*, originally published in three volumes from 1961 onwards. The fourth edition appeared in 1990, revised with Guthrie's acknowledged meticulous scholarship. Other works included *New Testament Theology* (1981), and, for the popular market, *Jesus the Messiah* and *The Apostles*. It was, however, primarily through his academic books and a steady stream of articles in learned journals that he was best known. His contribution to New Testament scholarship

was recognised this year by the award of the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the Council for National Academic Awards.

Guthrie was an evangelical Christian and found no difficulty in bringing together scholarship and evangelical convictions. He was a scholarly voice in the 1960s and 1970s when evangelical scholarship was rare and scepticism appeared to hold sway. That the situation today is so far returned to a more conservative view owes much to him.

In his writing, Guthrie was fair to those with whom he disagreed, gave their views courteous and serious attention to build up and built rather than demolished. Vincent Taylor, reviewing *New Testament Introduction*, described it as "scholarly, competent, well-informed, judiciously expressed, restrained in statement". Marcus Ward noted the "absence of that sarcasm which so often characterises the critic".

That was noted also by his students. He treated them seriously, shamed them on occasion, entertained them hilariously. Guthrie leaves his wife, Mary, and four sons and two daughters.

University news

Oxford Prize Renwick Vickers dermatology prize 1992: Lisanne Ann Lin Kho, of Trinity College.

London Professor Gerald Dworkin, Hershel Smith professor of intellectual property law at Queen Mary and Westfield College, has been appointed Director of the Centre of European Law at King's College London and Herbert Smith professor of European law, London University.

Royal Veterinary College Appointments

Dr Peter Chantler, professor of anatomy and neurobiology at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, to the Chair of Veterinary Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Dr Stephen May, senior lecturer in equine studies at Liverpool University, to the Chair of Equine Medicine and Surgery.

Sheffield

Michael Palin, the actor and author, has received the honorary degree of doctor of letters from

Professor Gareth Roberts, vice-chancellor. Mr Palin was born in

the city and is patron of the

Lyceum theatre trust. The honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred on Arnold Aspinall, formerly head of the department of archaeology at Bradford University.

Bristol Dr Stephen Harris, of the department of zoology, has been appointed as the first holder of the Duvelton chair in environmental sciences. The chair has been established in memory of Lord Duvelton, who died in February.

Dr Stephen John Hogan, SERC advanced fellow, Mathematical Institute, Oxford, has been appointed professor in mathematics in the faculty of engineering.

Dr Charles Martindale, reader in Latin and comparative literature, has been appointed to the chair in Latin.

Bath Honorary degrees are to be conferred upon the following:

Professor Peter Scott, professor of education at Leeds University and formerly editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, doctor of laws; and Mr Peter Shaffer, author and critic, doctor of letters.

In Delhi its order has been

restored after the grave riots of a

fortnight ago, in which perhaps

2,000 people were killed and

tens of thousands driven into

refugee camps. Even so, com-

munal feelings run high, and

there appears no prospect what-

soever of the Muslims being able

to return to their lawful advoca-

APPRECIATIONS

Canon David Diamond

LOOKING back to the days of leaving college and ordination, it does not seem 20 years ago that "Farver" Diamond (obituary, September 14) and the people of St Paul's welcomed me to Deptford.

I was asked at his funeral: "You must have had a splendid training as a priest here?" But I do not recall any formal training, just endless work and an unending stream of people! This in itself was a tribute to the Rector of Deptford, for there were very few people when he arrived 23 years before, and then so busy that seven priests were fully occupied.

Deptford had come alive with the advent of the new priest at St Paul's, though David Diamond always attributed this to God alone. There followed a great revival of community spirit and Church life. There were great Masses, street parties, pensioners' outings, the youth club, scouts, the Miller Hospital, the Deptford Festival. And the people of Deptford came — and so did the Queen, Princess Margaret, the archbishop, the bishop, the Pearly Queen, Miss Deptford, the Town Crier, the faithful, the curious, the wanting-to-believe. They became one in worship and a community centred on the Church.

Such was my training! Long



hours, a meal in the Brown Bear in the absence of a clergyman housekeeper to cook for us, activities, administration, fund-raising, delivering leaflets, and a crowded house with kids off the street, callers of all kinds at all hours. The telephone would ring past midnight with a request for "Farver" to pick up some kids who had missed the last bus after a disco in Lewisham, and another day would begin.

The incarnation, identification of God's priest at work amongst God's people and becoming the instrument that God uses to bring the unbelieving unto Himself: that is what I learnt. It was supremely exemplified in the sacrificial life of "Farver" David Diamond.

Fr Paul Williamson



all it will be for his own strikingly true kindness that dozens of friends in Turkey will chiefly remember him.

T. L. A. Daunt
Ambassador to Turkey
1986-92

member. He enjoyed meeting the newer generation of Bridlingtonians and was delighted last year to be photographed at the Cambridge branch luncheon with the youngest member, Polly Redman.

Henry wore his scholarship lightly, and younger Old Bridlingtonians enjoyed his company as much as he enjoyed theirs. He will be sorely missed far beyond the little world of academe, and not least here in Yorkshire.

M. J. A. Mortimore

Violent clashes between Muslims and Hindus for over a year had brought India close to civil war. Originally intended for 1948, the dominion's independence was speeded up with the replacement of the viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, and on August 15, 1947 the two states of India and Pakistan came into being.

The extent and intensity of this vast conflict, amounting to an undeclared civil war, are such that it is reasonable to assume that it is over unless inhibited by perhaps 100,000,000 people. What the main causes of the separation are is not clear. One is the political will of the two states to rid themselves at all costs of a potential fifth column consisting of persons of opposing faiths.

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Within the past few weeks conditions over a wide area of northern India, including the whole of the Indus valley and parts of the plain of the Ganges, have deteriorated steadily. It is no exaggeration to say that throughout the North-West Frontier Province, in West Punjab, East Punjab and the western part of the United Provinces, the minority communities live in a state of insecurity often amounting to panic. Further afield, in the eastern parts of the United Provinces, and to a less extent in Bihar and Bengal, much tension and friction prevail.

On the first question of mob frenzy, it must be recorded that there is no indication that the blood lust of either side is satisfied. On the contrary, and in spite of isolated reports of returning confidence, attacks by each community on defenceless villages inhabited by the opposite community continue to occur.

What is worse is the persistence of organized attacks on road convoys of refugees and the increasing ambushes of trains carrying refugees, in spite of the presence of strong military escorts.

Clergy appointments

The Rev Gerald Brown, Chaplain, St Edmund's, Oslo, Norway and Archdeacon of Scandinavia; to be Chaplain, St Peter and St Sigfrid's, Stockholm, Sweden, and to continue as Archdeacon of Scandinavia (Europe).

The Rev Michael Anderson, Vicar, Hordle and Rural Dean of Lyndhurst, to be also an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral (Win

Kohl denies plan to build 'mini-EC' of five nations

BY IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, moved swiftly yesterday to deny reports that he and President Mitterrand had agreed in Paris on Tuesday to form a five-nation "mini-Europe" inside the European Community to get round Danish and British reluctance to forge ahead with European union. His denial came as the Bundesbank continued its expensive intervention to steady the franc.

The recent strains on the European Monetary System (EMS) have also convinced backbenchers of all main parties in Germany that the Bundesbank must have a final say on the introduction of a common currency. That amounts to an opt-out clause for Germany, although members of the parliament's European affairs committee were careful to say yesterday that that process would not constitute a "second ratification" for the Maastricht treaty.

Relative calm returned to the financial markets yesterday as speculators eased their pressure on the franc in the face of the combined offensive by the French and German governments. The French and German central banks were forced to buy further large quantities of francs to prop up the currency, but the determination of the two countries to save the EMS deterred traders from continuing with the hammering that they had inflicted on the currency on Wednesday.

Traders said they believed that the Bank of France was close to running out of money to support the franc, but they were cautious about staging a big sell-off, fearing that the Bundesbank would put up a strong defence. The franc closed the day well above its "floor" in the exchange-rate mechanism. A spokesman for Michel Sapin, the French finance minister, said that the government was growing increasingly confident that the worst was over, but they would have to wait until the weekend to see if they had truly beaten the currency speculators.

Concern about the stability of any future common monetary system has prompted Karl Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president, to suggest a "mini-EMS" of countries with strong currencies. Writing in this week's edition of the Swiss newspaper, *Weltwoche*, he suggested that Germany, France, Denmark and the Benelux countries might be joined by Switzerland and Austria in what would amount to an economic bloc based on the mark.

The reports of a new Paris-Bonn plan for a two-speed Europe, quoted in *Die Welt*, suggested that by 1997 the three Benelux countries would form a new nucleus in the heart of Europe centred on the Franco-German axis that traditionally has been at the core of the Community. The newspaper said the idea was to counter British and Danish attempts to slow the Maastricht ratification process.

Herr Kohl, who has become increasingly anxious about realising his dream of European unity during the past tumultuous week, instructed his spokesman to issue a statement insisting that "these claims are invented and have no basis in fact".

Jacques Delors, the president of the EC Commission, said at a businessman's seminar in Brussels last night that if states such as Britain and Denmark delayed European political and monetary union promised by the Maastricht treaty, a smaller group of countries may go ahead on its own. In an impassioned plea to Europe's statesmen to keep the momentum of European integration going, Mr Delors said that the Continent was faced with the prospect of decline if it failed to meet the present challenges posed by deep divisions over ratification of Maastricht and turmoil on financial markets.

"If some countries are looking for alibis for delaying the treaty," he said, "it may well be that others will take an initiative. In the world as it is, we cannot delay."

M. Delors added that the Commission was working on solutions to stabilise the ERM, although he would not disclose details while the markets were still sensitive.

Parliament, page 4
Delors eyes Elysée, page 12
Battle for franc, page 19

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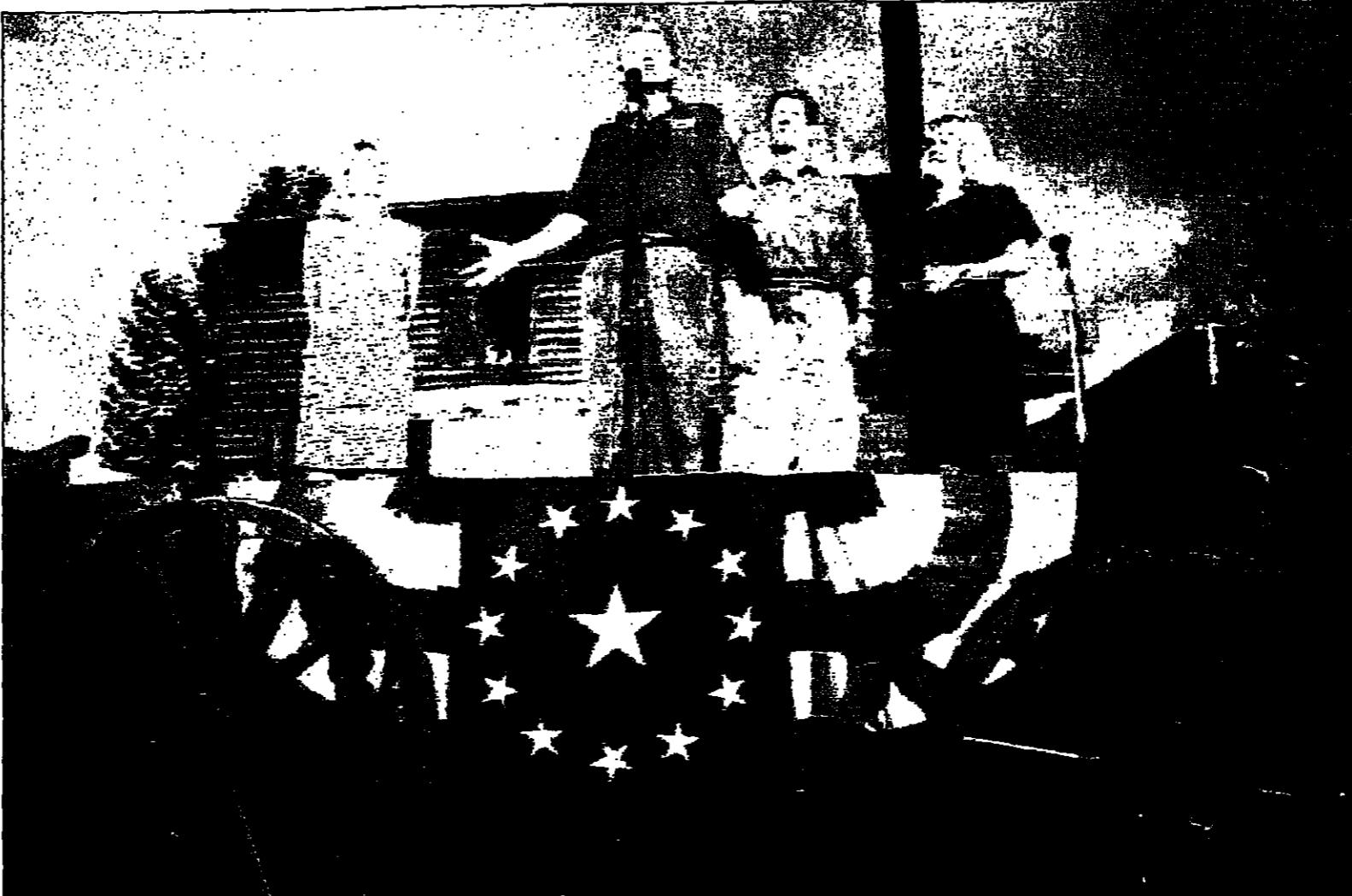
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Parliament, page 4
Delors eyes Elysée, page 12
Battle for franc, page 19



Riding the Democratic bandwagon: Bill Clinton and his running mate Al Gore hit the campaign trail in Georgia with their wives, pausing to address the crowds from their colourful old-fashioned bunting

Bush hounded, page 9; Anthony Howard, page 14

Smith's dazzling debut exposes Tory U-turn over the economy

Continued from page 1

per examination of where future British interests lay, he said. "My expectation is a better way, if it can be seen to be adequate — and no one should doubt that we will examine carefully whether the mechanism can be made to work. I do not believe that we shall be able to go back to the same mechanism soon or into the same mechanism we left."

Mr Major made plain that the Maastricht bill would not come back under Britain knew how the Danes intended to try to reverse their "no" vote, and until the new curbs on Brussels had been agreed. The latter condition is designed to placate the Euro-sceptics who have gained strength.

Mr Major, speaking of people's fears that the Community intervenes too intrusively in national life, made plain that he was looking for a "definition, a settled order of what is for national action and what is for community action".

The issue is to be debated at the special Community summit to be held in Birmingham on October 16, and government sources said they hoped firm proposals would come from the Edinburgh summit in December.

Jacques Delors, Commission president, has indicated his readiness to accept new restrictions on petty restrictions set by Brussels and on its ability to interfere in purely national matters, such as motorway planning. In the wake of the concerns thrown up in Denmark, France and Germany, EC leaders are believed to accept the need for a new mechanism setting out limits on the Commission's power.

Labour MPs were voicing delight at Mr Smith's debut which has boosted party morale in the run-up to the annual conference next week. He threw back at the prime minister repeated statements that he had made saying there would be no devaluation. "We have a government whose economic policy is in tatters, whose credibility is blown, whose competence has been exposed," he claimed. Britain was lurching back to Thatcherite economic policies

that "pulverised" the economy during the 1980s. He asked how anybody could ever believe in anything. Mr Lamont said after his recent performance: "What has occurred in the course of the last week or so is not just an upset for the government's economic policy, but the complete destruction of what they claimed was a total political and economic strategy to which you yourself could not have been more closely committed."

Mr Smith challenged Mr Major on why he did not press for a general realignment within the ERM once the extent of the sterling crisis became clear. This would have saved Britain from being forced to leave the ERM and the government from having to spend £1 billion propping up the currency. "If this had been done we could have had an orderly realignment, not a rout; a co-operative change, not a crisis."

Parliament, page 4
Peter Riddell, page 14
Leading article, page 15

It's Dennis v Goliath in clash of the Titans

Continued from page 1

at last. Now rose a giant: Mr Goliath Heath, rather smaller than before, his white hair soft and sleek in the television lights. John Smith, he said, "has done rather well, if I may say so. But now we have to turn to serious business". He called for more thought and fewer emergency summits where "too much time is spent at lunch and dinner". "Yeah, you should

know!" the Boy Dennis let fly at Goliath with his sling.

"Indeed. And I've been trying to lose weight ever since." Sir Edward continued his argument, flattening Denmark with one swing. Mr Hecker continued his anti-European heckle. Heath turned exasperated, on Hecker ... "How can you call yourself a socialist when you have such a hatred of your fellow men and women in other countries?"

Skinner's reply was full of words like "daff" and "dumb". Heath thanked him for the moderation of his language and turned to assure another doubter that useful lessons could be learned from Canada, whence he had just returned. — "Who paid?" shouted Skinner. — "Not an Arab," snapped Sir Edward.

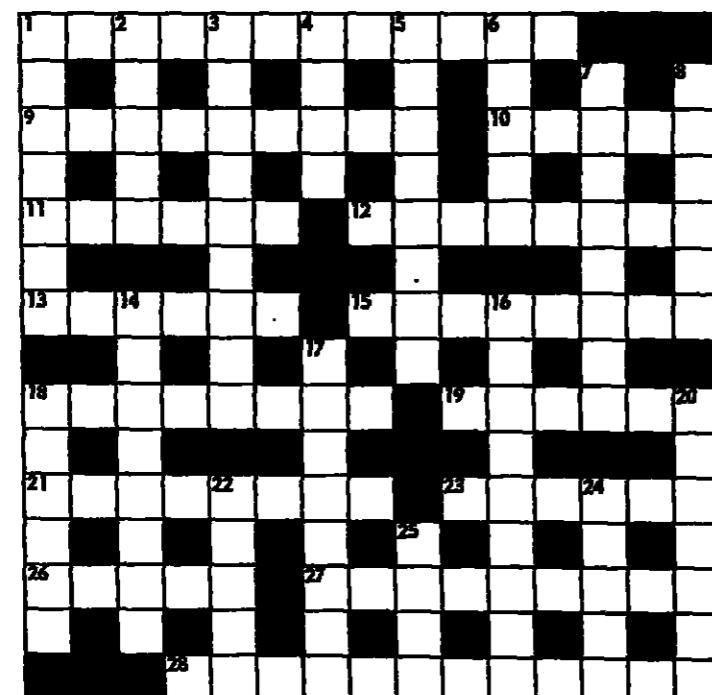
"Sit down," shouted Skinner, "while you're winning." It was good advice. Sadly, Sir Edward did not take it. Mr Major stared glassily at the middle-distance.

Minor earthquake. Sir Edward and Mr Skinner un-hurt. The prime minister also survived.

Skinner: taking up burden of history

— Mellor's trials, page 3
William Westwood, page 14
Diary, page 14
Leading article
and letters, page 15
Modern Times,
L & T section, page 4

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,033



By Philip Howard

YERK
a. To draw stiches tight
b. A pratt or idiot
c. To round the ryepeck at rowing

CLERISY

a. Heresy by a priest
b. An aromatic root
c. Learned men as a body

CUMMER

a. An abandoned woman

b. A bay-making tool

c. A godmother

JIMP

a. Slender, slim

b. A showpiece boy

c. A reverse gibe while sailing

Answers on page 16

National traffic and roadworks

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circ.) ... 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 ... 732

M-ways/roads M25-T2 ... 734

M-ways/roads M25-M4 ... 735

M25 London Orbital only ... 736

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M-ways/roads M25-T2 ... 734

M-ways/roads M25-M4 ... 735

M25 London Orbital only ... 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways

737

West Country

738

Wales

739

Midlands

740

East Anglia

741

North-west England

743

Scotland

744

Northern Ireland

745

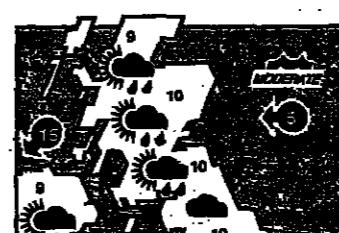
AA Roadtax is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 46p per minute at all other times

Answers on page 16

Concise Crossword, page 9

Life & Times section

Southeast and eastern England will have outbreaks of rain. The rest of England and Wales will be bright with showers, but rain from the east will affect the West Midlands and north-east England by evening. Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland should have showers, heavy at times, becoming confined to northern Scotland. Outdoored rain in south and east will creep west; it should ease in central areas on Sunday. Elsewhere, mainly dry.



London 0.62 pm to 0.63 am
Birmingham 7.01 pm to 7.03 am
Edinburgh 7.00 pm to 7.02 am
Penzance 7.18 pm to 7.15 am



Temperature at midday yesterday: c, cloud; l, light rain; s, sun.

Sunday Sun rise 6.52 am Sun sets 6.52 pm Moon sets 5.57 pm

Monday Moon rises 11.52 pm

Tuesday Sun rise 6.45 am Sun sets 6.45 pm Moon sets 5.57 pm

Wednesday Sun rise 6.41 am Sun sets 6.41 pm Moon sets 5.56 pm

Thursday Sun rise 6.37 am Sun sets 6.37 pm Moon sets 5.55 pm

Friday Sun rise 6.33 am Sun sets 6.33 pm Moon sets 5.54 pm

Saturday Sun rise 6.29 am Sun sets 6.29 pm Moon sets 5.53 pm

Sunday Sun rise 6.25 am Sun sets 6.25 pm Moon sets 5.52 pm

Monday Sun rise 6.21 am Sun sets 6.21 pm Moon sets 5.51 pm

Tuesday Sun rise 6.17 am Sun sets 6.17 pm Moon sets 5.50 pm

Wednesday Sun rise 6.13 am Sun sets 6.13 pm Moon sets 5.49 pm

Thursday Sun rise 6.09 am Sun sets 6.09 pm Moon sets 5.48 pm

Friday Sun rise 6.05 am Sun sets 6.05 pm Moon sets 5.47 pm

Saturday Sun rise 6.01 am Sun sets 6.01 pm Moon sets 5.46 pm

Sunday Sun rise 5.57



LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1992

My other car's a classic

Strange objects of the motorists' desire are on show on Sunday

You might have bought it just to cope with the weekly load from Sainsbury's and a daily troop of schoolkids who could knock the stuffing out of an armoured car, never mind a humble hatchback. But before you give the family jalopy a kick on the way past this morning, think again.

Inside that rusting hulk, there could be a star waiting to burst on to the catalogues of eager collectors. After all, one man's ageing runabout is another man's classic car.

The collectors will all be there this weekend, at the Grand London Autjumble, prodding, admiring and smiling at cars that 20 years ago would not have attracted a second glance.

Of course, there will be some genuinely classic cars, gorgeous Jaguars, Porsches and Ferraris which rarely see the light of day, cosseted recluses rising in value faster than the Deutschmark. But there will also be lines of Morris Minors, Fords, Austin and Hillmans. Who turned them into classics?

The Morris Minor was the runabout that Lord Nuffield snifly described as a "poached egg". Morris went on to make more than 1.5 million of these small, ugly cars between 1948 and 1971. Their technology would hold few surprises for Daimler or Benz, if they could return from the grave. Yet Minors are out



A classic for the collector: the Sunbeam Alpine

there in their thousands.

What makes classic car enthusiasts spend £1,000 on a car that was designed shortly after the second world war and needs constant care and attention?

They never bill and coo over a 40-year-old washing machine. Ask them to do the family laundry in a 1952 Hoover and they would send out for the men in white coats. No one can truly understand the true enthusiast, the doctors and solicitors who spend their weekends touring Britain for a 1949 Hillman.

Now there are the young, newly wealthy muscled in. They already have a proper car (almost always owned by their company) and want something "special". The MGB is their current favourite. MGBs haven't been manufactured for a dozen years but there are more of them per square inch of road in 1992 than almost any other sports car. Look through the windscreen and the chances are that there is a driver just waiting for heads to turn.

If you spot a classic among today's cars, then dash out and buy a dozen, and wait for the value to roll up.

Then again, you might already have a classic in your drive. Take another look at the old banger. A bit of a clean-up and some polish and...

KEVIN EASON

The Grand London Autjumble, Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunday, September 27. 10am to 5pm. Admission: adults £3, pensioners £2, children £1.

Motoring: pages 7 and 9

After six years as Master of Marlborough, David Cope is to leave teaching. Why?

You can spot the headmasters in the cobbled streets of the pretty little town of Bruges. Tall, greying, reassuring and dependable figures, some with clerical collars or smoking a pipe. This year the Headmasters' Conference has gone continental, hence the location. But what causes more angst than Maastricht in the magisterial bosom is the increasingly fragile nature of his job: witness the resignation, just announced, of David Cope, the elongated, bespectacled Master of Marlborough.

It has been a tough year. Heads have rolled at some of Britain's top schools: Helen Williams at St

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Paul's Nicholas Coates at The Hall in Hampstead; Nigel Richardson at The Dragon in Oxford, all announced their premature departures after short-lived headships, victims of often ill-informed pressure from parents, staff and governors. All had taken on famous schools in the wake of long-serving predecessors.

The resignation of Mr Cope is different. He is well-liked and respected. In the past six years he has transformed Marlborough, making it a wholly co-educational school from age 13, civilising it out of its male chauvinist pigsty, improving results (largely thanks to the bright girls) and lifting it out of incipient anarchy.

But his news has caused much slapping on the backs from fellow heads in Bruges. "Congratulations or commiserations," they say, not sure which is appropriate.

Well, did he jump or was he pushed, like the other much-publicised rolling heads? Mr Cope insists he was always planning to do something else at 13 (he is 47). But there is a subtext to his defensive statements. The glare of tabloid exposure concerning the universal teenage temptations, sex and drugs — what do people expect, when 900 mixed and excitable adolescents live together? — has got to him.

Parents expect headmasters and headmistresses to be superhuman. We think they should be stricter than we are at home, but friendly. We like them to have happy families of their own. We expect them to be scholars, who turn out more scholars. We require old, wise heads on young, energetic shoulders. We even prefer them to be tall.

Mr Cope was that paragon. His track record as a headmaster was excellent. By the age of 40 he had turned around two failing schools, Dover College in Kent (which he also made co-ed) and the British School in Paris. He had been a scholar at Winchester and at Cambridge — his five A-levels when he was 17 included something called History from Foreign Texts — but he was also an oarsman and did dashing things in youth such as understudying the late Laurence Harvey in the Carol Reed film *The Running Man*. At 21 he was already married to Jill, the girl almost next door in Ealing, but he gave up teaching at Eton in search of adventure in Mexico City.

Six years ago he and Jill and three children arrived at Marlborough from Paris, full of enthusiasm and ambition. He felt he had been appointed to be a reformer: governors always want either a consolidator or a reformer.

Marlborough had the reputation of being slack. People told him the school needed a firm grip. Even the *Good School Guide*, which gloomily called Marlborough "The Graveyard of Headmasters" and referred to Roger Ellis, his predecessor, who had been there 14 years, as "gentle, remarkable and dearly loved", said the school's liberal, individualistic traditions were in danger of slipping into anarchy.

He found an un-stuffy school refreshingly self-critical, with senior boys who were "welcoming, broad-minded, articulate and courteous". But he also discovered that there

was too much rule-breaking at the smoking and drinking level. There was no corporate spirit.

"I was also very shaken, having been in a co-educational environment for ten years, with boys and girls on equal terms and equally valued, to return to a blatantly male chauvinist world," he says. His own elder daughter, who had joined the sixth form, found it hard to take.

"The boys did treat the girls in, frankly, quite an unpleasant way. The story that always told about those days is that when the new girls went in for their first meal, they had to run the gauntlet of having themselves graded; the boys holding up numbers, like in an ice-skating competition, rating their attractiveness. And that did happen. The Marlborough expression was: 'Getting grief! You 'got grief' if you were a girl and you 'gave grief' if you were a boy.'

"It was basically male territory. The school only selected the kind of girls who would be robust enough not only to keep up the academic pace but to withstand the male culture. Shrinking violets were not accepted, on the whole. Even so, there was the odd casualty who left in her first year because she found the atmosphere daunting."

Bravely boys do not change overnight, but Mr Cope seized on the solution of making the whole school mixed from the age of 13. With a windfall of £8 million from selling off land (these were the boom years of 1986-7) he built new houses. The whole school became much more pleasant. The only ties that remained were the older boys, who related to the character of their school changing. They did not care much for Mr Cope's new rules, like not being allowed to wander about the campus after prep. "It is an open campus with lots of dark corners for smoking a crafty cigarette, and many exits, and you can't supervise it like a police state. The senior boys felt it was too strict for Marlborough, which is supposed to be a liberal school, not a dull, conformist place."

There was also the collective memory of the more lenient and avuncular Mr Ellis. All new heads face this: the definition of a saint. Mr Cope says, is a head who does not think uncharitable thoughts about his predecessor. Mr Cope is saintly enough, but confesses that he must have appeared austere and remote. Even his commanding height was a factor. The selection committee that appointed him had been asked, "Please, let's not have another Wykehamist", and, "Could we have some tall?"

They got a tall Wykehamist who



Civilising influences: during his time at Marlborough, David Cope made the school co-educational from the age of 13 and much less sexist

drugs and sex. It is, after all, his willingness to act openly about these that has made him so very exposed, the press coverage making the school cut to be, he says, a "den of iniquity with rampaging adolescents out of control".

"All young people at any kind of school come into contact with drugs, or know someone who does. That problem is not one of school, it is a problem of the society in which we live."

Mr Cope's draconian rule of instant expulsion — in his second year seven boys were expelled for drug-taking — remains. Only this term he has instituted a new policy of urine testing where drugs are suspected. It is now a signed condition of entry that parents permit this. If a second chance is

people think, a boy and girl are found together, and are asked to leave. We make it clear what the limits are."

The expulsion last year of the 15-year-old girl who was on the Pill was, in his view, misrepresented.

"The girl consulted a GP in confidence. In a boarding school that GP is likely to be the medical officer retained by the school. It was his decision, which he correctly communicated to no-one but the girl. I did not know, nor did her parents or housemistress. So to blame 'the school' is grossly unfair. I can understand people thinking that the school operated a double standard — and there is a tension between the moral basis of the rules and the right to an individual child to make individual judgments, and to confidentiality."

As all heads know, adolescents are not going to give up their predilection for transgressing. But after next summer Mr Cope at least will not be held responsible. He is taking a sabbatical in the autumn — he has a small house in London and a larger farmhouse in Gascony — when he will contemplate his future. Perhaps that will be running an international charity, "something that would benefit people other than the well-heeled".

R ecently, in Jaipur in India, an old soothsayer read his palm, gaining Mr Cope's confidence when he guessed the name of Mr Cope's mother (Eileen). "You are going to write a book", the soothsayer said, "a celebrated book." What manner of book will this be? Mr Cope does not know.

The worst moment in the past few years came when his younger daughter was herself expelled from her school after a drinking episode. He did not blame the press — "It was an interesting story," he says. "Head of top school who expelled boys for drinking has the same thing happen to his own daughter." — but he found it "distressing" to see his child described in tabloid.

"I would not be wholly honest if I did not admit I shall be very glad to be free of what has sometimes seemed to be relentlessly hostile, mischief-making publicity at the expense of the school."

"You need a thick skin to be a headmaster, but then people who want to puncture it press all the harder."

He would find it "emotionally impossible" to gear himself up to another school. "A headmaster is in the centre of a web, under a searching spotlight. The web is made up of different groups, themselves in conflict and expectant — the pupils, the parents, the governors, the old boys, the local community, the media, and the public at large. All the pressures bear in on you and it is not getting any easier."

"Parents want value for money. The fees go up ahead of inflation. They want good results and the league table syndrome exacerbates this, although I don't think it gives

anywhere near the true measure of a school's worth. On top of that the recession is affecting parents' ability to pay, so we face the possibility of declining numbers."

Who would a headmaster be? Only those with true valour. On Wednesday morning in Bruges, the headmasters and their wives cheered to the rafters the formidable Mme Gentzibet, head of the Lycée Fenelon in Paris. She sported a black eye — given to her, she explained, by an aggrieved pupil who came to her flat last weekend. Father Dominic Mifroy, lately head of Ampleforth and chairman of the conference, said one had to admire a youth who would take on Mme Gentzibet. "But he was defeated in the end," she replied.

Businessmen attend courses on stress management, but there is no such training for the beleaguered head. Young men and women in their care are troublesome and their increasingly intrusive parents even more so.

Good men like Mr Cope are hard enough to find, and a headship today is only for the very tough. *Caveat magister*



Also resigned: Nigel Richardson of The Dragon school in Oxford

You need a thick skin, but then people who want to puncture it press all the harder

was also very strict, and preoccupied with the building programme. "I'm sure there is some justice in the criticism that I seemed distant. I was not ubiquitous, strolling around the campus," he says.

But after the five-year hurdle, when all the pupils who remembered the old days had gone, things got easier. He declares he is now very happy with the feel of the school: the social tone is right. The senior prefect is the remarkable Bronte Flecker, daughter of a former Marlborough housemaster, and the third girl to be senior prefect. Girls' achievements and principles now matter as much as the boys', Mr Cope has done well.

So why go? He reels off the answers: he has done 20 years' headmastering; he has faced challenges at three different schools; he is looking for fresh fields... So let us talk. Mr Cope, about

allowed, periodic urine testing is required.

No doubt Marlborough is no worse than many schools, but Mr Cope's candour suggests otherwise. "I think we have led the way in this matter. It may be that some schools will be nervous about facing the problem for fear of the bad publicity. People think, if you are doing that you must have a massive problem. But I care more for our real welfare than our image in the media. I am confident we are doing the right thing."

Sex, Mr Cope says, is quite simple. It is not allowed. "We have a strict, clear rule in black and white, that explicit sexual relations, anything that I consider to be sexual impropriety, and anything described as sexual harassment, will lead to expulsion. From time to time, human nature being what it is, but far less frequently than

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SQUARE ROUNDS: New Tony Harrison "theatre piece" in verse re-acts the inventors of machine guns and other tools of slaughter. Performed almost entirely by the ensemble *Barbera* (Gillian Carter, South Bank, SE1 071-928 2252), previews from tonight, 7.15pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

I CAPUCCI ED MONTECCHI: Per Luis Pizz's 1984 production of Bellini's *bel canto* treatment of the Romeo and Juliet story (revived with a promising cast: Anne Sofie von Otter, singer, Romeo, the young British soprano Katherine Cook, Juliet, the contralto, The conductor is Daniel Gatti) Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 071-340 1056, tonight, 7.30pm.

THE FORCE OF DESTINY: Well balanced English National Opera production of Verdi's compelling opera under the baton of the estimable Mark Elder. Josephine Barstow takes on the rôle of the most commanding of all Verdi's dramatic heroines, roles that of Leonora; Edmund Barnard is at his best as Don Alvaro; and John Connell, Anne-Marie Owens and Jonathan Summers make a fine supporting cast. National Theatre, London SE1 071-928 1100, Tues-Sat, 7pm.

THE DANCE OF DESTINY: The premiere of *History of the Drum*, a new work which follows the development of the instrument from its roots in African culture through to its use in the Caribbean and to its use in the rest of the world. The piece ends with the transition of the instrument into the dreaded drum machine. Almeida Theatre, Suffolk Street, Birmingham (021-643 5225), tonight, 7.30pm.

KOKUMA: A CHICHESTER THEATRE: The premiere of *History of the Drum*, a new work which follows the development of the instrument from its roots in African culture through to its use in the Caribbean and to its use in the rest of the world. The piece ends with the transition of the instrument into the dreaded drum machine. Almeida Theatre, Suffolk Street, Birmingham (021-643 5225), tonight, 7.30pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorfman's chilling psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross in a production by the Royal Exchange, Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 071-936 5122. Mon-Sat, 8pm; Thurs, 8pm, Sat, 4pm. 120mins.

THE DYSRHYTHMIA: Kate Mitchell's thrillingly commanding Habsic community where the supernatural presences in all its forms. The Royal Exchange, St Martin's Lane, EC2 071-936 8911. Tonight, 7.15pm; 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and punk. The Royal Exchange, St Martin's Lane, EC2 071-936 6111. Mon-Thurs, 8.30pm; Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3.30pm and 120mins.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barley sugar. Berlin in the twenties. Sentimental, American, enchanting. Royal Exchange, St Martin's Lane, EC2 071-936 6111. Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3.30pm and 120mins.

HAMLET: Alan Rickman in a fascinating voice dominates a generally low-key production. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 081-848 2354. Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; 15mins. (Sold out for complete run.)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Frears' ingeniously powerful re-creation of Priestley's drama of social responsibility. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 071-282 2252. Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm; mat tomorrow, 2.15pm; 100mins.

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Larks in the hothouse. Alan Ayckbourn, Ray Conney face with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 071-839 4401. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 3.30pm, 120mins.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harper and William Gamm play

WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

DAVID MASSINGHAM DANCE: The young company offers two world premieres and a London premiere of works by Massingham in its first appearance at the West End theatre. Shows, a mix of cabaret and sport of music, a set to music by Chopin; *To Power* interacts movement with form, shadow and light, utilising sculptures by Charles Quicke and *Severance* on the meaning of dependence. Royal Exchange, St Martin's Lane, London WC1 071-367 9229, tonight, 8pm; tomorrow, 8pm.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The BBCSO under Andrew Davis opens its series *The British Line* on Sunday. The first concert sandwiches Baby Yar, by the sometimes controversial young composer, with a programme between the four Symphonies from Britten's Peter Grimes and the Symphony No 4 by Vaughan Williams from 6.45pm in the Royal Hall, South Bank. The next concert is on Wednesday.

PHILHARMONIA: The orchestra launches its new season to encounters a wide range of music from the second half of this century. James MacMillan will lead a performance and discussion of his music-theatre work *Requiem*, the piece from a decade ago to Egarr's choral setting of Cardinal Newman's poem,

The Dream of Gerontius (conducted by Yevgeny Svetlanov). Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 071-928 8800, 8pm.

SHURA CHEKASSKY: The distinguished pianist plays music by Bach, Schubert, Chopin, Beno and Brahms. On Monday Philips Auditorium, Birmingham (021-212 3333), tomorrow, 8pm.

BRITISH FESTIVAL OF VISUAL THEATRE: Jongleur schedules two weeks of comedy, cabaret and performance in the festival. The first offers up John Lenihan and John Doherty, the Brighton Bands, Schneider, The Brighton Bands Orchestra, Gothic rockers The Bubble Bishops and juggler Paul Morocco. Jongleur, 49 Lavender Gardens, London SW1 071-924 2248, tonight, 8pm; tomorrow, 8pm and 10.30pm.

BARBARA THOMPSON: Kinetic fusion jazz from the saxophonist and her group. Royal Society's, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-643 4252), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm.

EMP: The lively indie dance duo embark on their largest UK tour to date, coinciding with the release of a new album, *Empress*. Royal Court, Liverpool 071-709 4321, tonight, 7.30pm.

LAUREN HANIFIN: The orchestra launches its new season to encounters a wide range of music from the second half of this century. James MacMillan will lead a performance and discussion of his music-theatre work *Requiem*, the piece from a decade ago to Egarr's choral setting of Cardinal Newman's poem,

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

HOUSE full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

crime writer who fall out and pit their wicked wits against each other: run-of-the-mill thriller.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: John Nettleton's *Richard III* (1989) is a classic aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama with wit.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET: Shaw's *Man of Destiny* (1989) is a reminder that the play is still a good investment.

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London Galleries: Richard Cork on the first British retrospective of the work of the Cubist Juan Gris

Grandee of domestic grandeur

Dying at the age of 40, Juan Gris was denied the chance to build on his achievement as a pioneering Cubist. He also laboured in the shadow of his fellow countryman Picasso, who dominated the Parisian avant-garde. All the evidence suggests that Gris, who had moved to the French capital from his native Madrid in 1906, began by hero-worshipping Picasso. But he found his own voice as a painter with surprising swiftness, and coolly pursued a personal interpretation of the Cubist vision to the end.

Now that the Whitechapel Art Gallery has provided Britain with its first Gris retrospective, the singularity of his standpoint is clarified at last. Nobody would guess from the earliest paintings here that he had spent his earliest Paris years as a prolific caricaturist and illustrator. The man who produced savagely anti-militarist images for anarchist magazines now withdrew into a purist world of household objects clustered on table-tops.

Two years before, Gris had become Picasso's neighbour when he moved into the legendary Bateau Lavoir studio building. These early pictures, subdued enough in colour to help explain why he had changed his surname from González to the sober-sounding Gris, suggest an interest in Cézanne and Chardin. But he may also have been feeding off a distinctly Spanish tradition, for Velázquez, Zurbarán and Meléndez were all masters of still life.

Whatever his influences may have been before Cubism claimed first loyalty, Gris soon began to invest these everyday groups of pots, bowls and bottles with an arresting, crystalline intensity. Light strikes the trio of forms in *Still Life with Oil Lamp* so forcefully that they all become irradiated by the shafts. Each object is transformed into a brittle structure, striped of detail and purged by the luminous assault. The prominent presence of a knife in one superb little canvas seems apt. For Gris is at this stage almost a carver among painters, slicing his bottles with a clear-cut command of the line he had honed as an illustrator.

By 1912, the climactic year for Cubism, his growing confidence prompted him to tackle a far larger composition. The grandeur innate even in his smallest paintings was now

paraded more majestically. Rising from fruit and flowers defined with sharp-edged authority in *Still Life with Flowers*, a guitar-arm takes on the streamlined, glinting power of a machine-age piston. The table-corner juts forward like the prow of an ocean-going liner, while its leg bows into the picture's base as powerfully as a road drill.

Unlike Léger, Gris never dealt directly with mechanistic themes. He shared Braque's preference for a domestic world, where only the most mundane objects were subjected to the perplexing, multiangled play of ever-shifting Cubist viewpoints. Compared with Picasso and Braque, who at one stage fragmented their paintings to the point of outright shattering, Gris never

**Unlike Picasso,
Gris never
relinquished
his feeling for
the solidity
of objects'**

relinquished his feeling for the solidity of objects.

The sculptural priority stayed secure, and in 1913, with *The Guitar*, he started thickening his pigment in a few, strangely swirling areas of the picture. This texturing stands in absolute contrast with the flat pieces of cut-out paper stuck elsewhere on the canvas. Gris clearly wanted to complicate his images, getting away from the uniform handling of the earlier paintings.

He also started exploring a greater range of colours than his Cubist colleagues. Outspoken yellow and purple enliven his *Guitar on a Chair*, while a light blue leaps out of a *Still Life with Bottle and Glass*. For a moment, he reverted to near-monochrome in an unusually tall painting of a man in a café. Close-up interiors are exchanged, here, for a glimpse of life on the boulevard. The man himself is dressed in black, and shows off his top-hatted elegance with a preening flamboyance. He is reminiscent of the dandyish self-portrait which Severini painted around this time, and two related drawings show

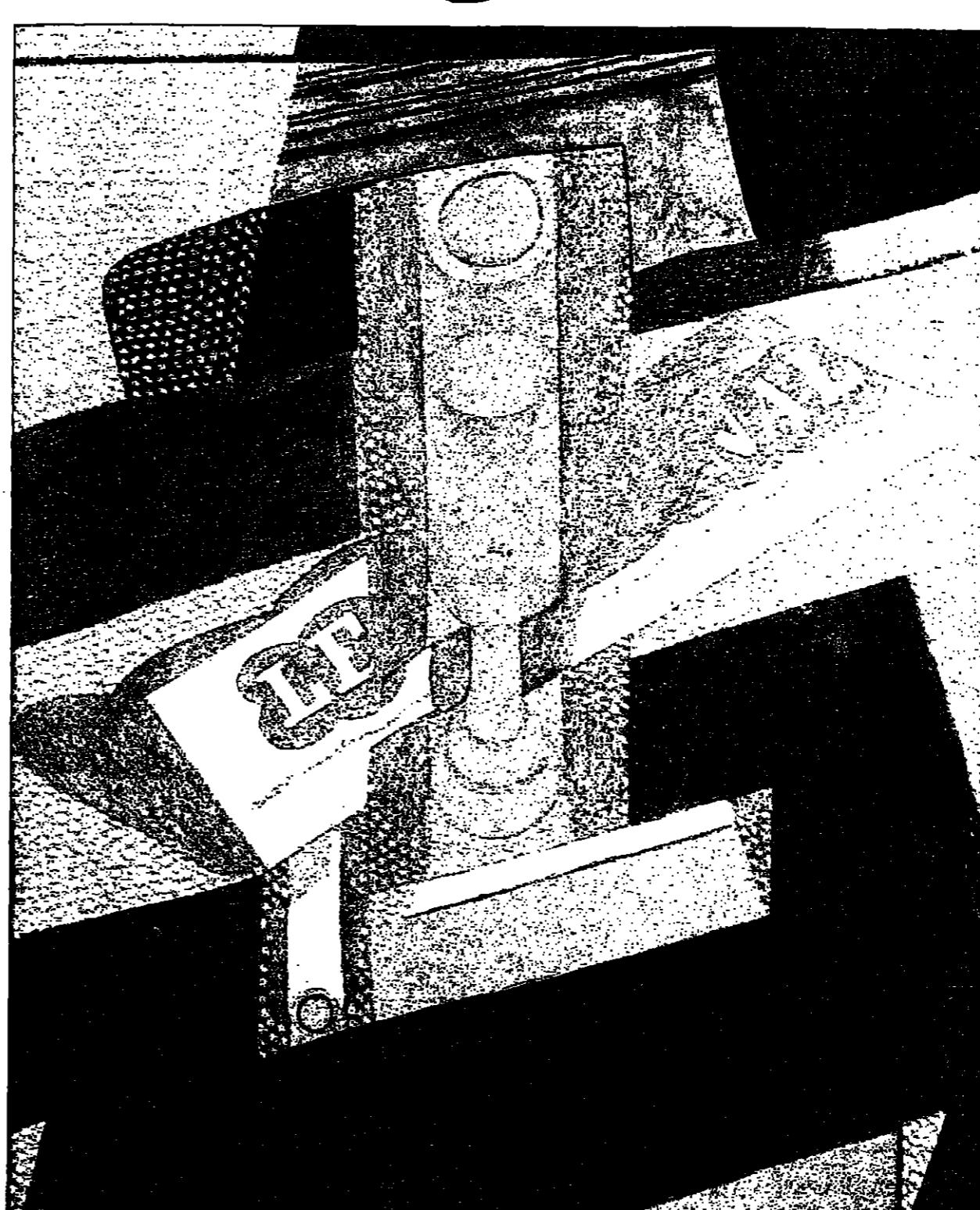
how satirical Gris's intentions were. In one pencil study, the man holds a cigar rakishly between his teeth, while stroking his hair like a cabaret dancer. The drawing shows how sternly he repressed the humorous side of his temperament in most of his work.

Man in the Café remains an exception, and the other paintings of people from this period are far more sober. One is outstanding: a superbly refined and incisive portrait of his mother, caught turning her head as if in response to an unseen companion. Everything about this deftly constructed head is alive with energy. As for the area around her mouth, Gris takes the greatest liberties of all in order to convey the animation of a woman who must have relished excitable conversation.

Perhaps because he knew his mother's face so well, Gris portrayed her with far more conviction than his other sitters of the period. The friendly critic Maurice Raynal emerges as pummelled as a detailed prize-fighter. And Germaine Raynal fared even more badly, her face criss-crossed by a crudely applied series of lines which resemble the bars of a cage.

Judging by these surprisingly uncertain efforts, Gris was wise to concentrate on still life during the years to come. His range widened, so that in one mood he could savour the autumnal abundance of the flowers, spreading their warmth across one delectable oil and cut-paper composition. But Gris also enjoys inserting the silhouette of an upside-down pipe, stark black among the sensuous browns and oranges spreading over the rest of the table-top.

The introduction of the austere pipe typifies Gris's insistence on discipline. However seductive his colours became during 1915, most of all in a delicious *Pot of Geraniums* where sky and clouds make an unexpected appearance, they were always informed by a fastidious need for control. The most resplendent of his 1915 paintings is a large *Still Life and Townscape (Place Ravignan)*, where the assembled bottles, books and newspaper flare with unusual richness in the lower half of the canvas. But the splendour of their pink, green and mauve orchestration is countered by the deeper, colder hue



Wonderfully restrained: Juan Gris's *The Pipe*, a 1916 gouache. From the collection of Lois and Georges de Menil

of the street scene above, where trees and shuttered houses are washed by a nocturnal blue. The whole painting appears to be floating above the water.

Gris reached his peak during this troubled decade. The advent of war led to a greater austerity, above all in a won-

derfully restrained gouache called *The Pipe* where the wine glass is as noble as a column in a classical temple. This sense of architectural magnificence never left him, and there are plenty of fine later paintings in Christopher Green's exemplary selection.

The Bay is an especially

beautiful image, ushering in a new mood of post-war relaxation where still life is juxtaposed, through an open window, with a white-sailed yacht and distant, green-veiled mountain. If Gris had not succumbed to uremia in 1927, he might well have developed this new interest in landscape. But we are left instead with a sense of failing strength in the final section, signalling the premature end of a painter who did not deserve to have his achievement cut short so tantalisingly.

• Juan Gris is at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (071-377 0107) until November 29.

ROCK/WORLD MUSIC

Voicing her own identity

Sheila Chandra, a singer drawing on Asian, African and European sources, talks to David Toop

Phonogram, demanded more hits please, no matter what the artistic consequences. Faced with the prospect of becoming battery hen, Monsoon's instant response was to disband.

Armed with professional confidence, partly learned during Monsoon's brief period of celebrity, but also accumulated through five years at the Italia Conti theatre school and an acting stint in *Grange Hill*, Chandra turned away from pop music.

"I wanted to slow down the pace, to be able to rehearse, explore and learn techniques," she explained. "But not because I wanted to be a housewife, as a Japanese journalist recently assumed."

Negotiating the path that winds through personal and ethnic identity, nationality and the expectations of media and family has not been easy. Chandra's new music, developed in an almost reclusive fashion over many years, embodies many of these conflicting demands. Using only her voice, and accompanying drones, she will interweave an ancient Irish ballad with Muslim melody lines, relate African/American soul to the subtle embellishments of North India's vocal traditions, or link a Spanish lullaby back to its Moorish routes by means

of Islamic ornamentation. Offensive to purists, the effect could be academic or merely indigestible, but Chandra achieves a sublime logic with seemingly incompatible elements through intense control of her material. After a decade of recording such innovative pieces, she is now performing them before audiences discovering the powerful atmosphere that a solo vocalist can generate in the right environment.

As for her place within the music business, this remains ambiguous. Her CDs cannot be found in Asian record shops, for example, because of her refusal to bend to the peculiarities of the Indian music market. "All sorts of inherited concepts, including the concept of copyright, get transferred over here with the community," she explains.

"In some ways, copyright does not exist in India. In classical music, if you are working with a raga, then you are working with a nebulous form. Also, Hindi film music has historically cost very much less to make in India, so people here are used to buying their Hindi film soundtracks for £2.50 an album. When UK-based Asian labels originally brought out their albums, they were £2.50 as well, because they were afraid of piracy. The community needs to realise that paying a decent price for an album means that a royalty can go back. With a flat-fee base there is no reinvestment in the work."

For Chandra's generation, perhaps even more for the generation that has followed it, the rules need to be rewritten.

Chandra, Najma, Joi,



Sheila Chandra: she mixes many musical styles

Apachi Indian and Fundamental are British-born Asian artists who represent diverse new approaches, all bypassing outmoded stereotypes and oppressive business practice. Not all of them can hope to repeat Monsoon's foray into the pop charts, but their role in our multicultural future is surely more valuable than mere pop success represents.

• Sheila Chandra will make her London solo debut at the Fortune Theatre, Euston (071-387 0031) tonight at 8pm. Admission £10.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Bare-faced cheek, or how to apply the Max factor

If public relations man Max Clifford were trying to get himself the sort of publicity he secures for such clients as Pamela Bordes and Derek Hatton, chances are you would see his face on the front of tomorrow's *Daily Mirror*. Alongside would be a snap of a busty bimbo who is accusing him in big capital letters of tricking her into having sex in return for the promise of a starring role in a new caffodol commercial, a contract which soured when she found out in bed that Max was in fact gay and was really after the bimbo's brother all along. Naturally, it would all be exclusive.

Of course none of it would be true but, as Max says, truth has very little to do with a good story and without a whopper of a tale his clients don't stand a chance of making the front page. As long as nobody gets hurt (apart from a few million gullible and manipulated tabloid readers), Max says there is no need to worry. His wife would know it was tosh, the journalists who paid lots of money for the scoop would know it was tosh, and the busty bimbo would know it was tosh, but she is desperate to ignore her career, so she doesn't care what she is made to say, just as long as they print her picture.

The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of Max's philosophy. If Jeremy Bentham were alive today, he would probably be in showbiz PR, too.

But timing is everything, and even someone as skilled in the business as Max must be envious at the timing of last night's *Present Perfect: Kiss and Tell* (BBC 2). It was a picture of a year in Clifford's life and it reached the screen just as Max's name is becoming as well-known as those of his clients. This is due to his recent professional association with an unemployed actress called Antonia de Sanha, friend of Chelsea fan David Mellor. Even top fixers kill for that sort of lucky break.

Watching the programme

big one-off fix, when dire circumstances demand dire remedies. Clifford let it be known that Freddie Starr had eaten someone's hamster, in order to make the Sun's front page and revive its flagging career, though don't bother asking Freddie what, exactly, it tasted like.

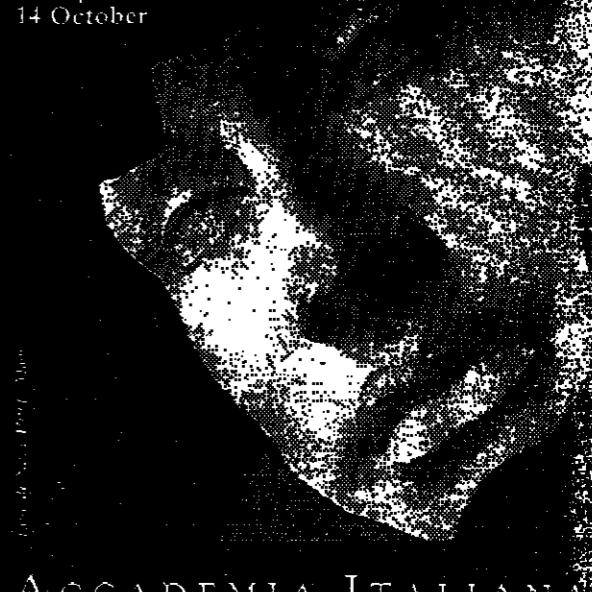
Clifford's clients pay him several thousand pounds a month to keep their name in headlines and, in due course, to help make them rich. Clifford's only stipulation is that his clients obey his advice on what to do and say to the Press; that they all toe the line. In *Mis de Sancha*, he may have found the perfect client.

JOE JOSEPH

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Is there such a thing as a free trip?

As Parliament reassembles, Andrew Roth considers the tradition of politicians enjoying the hospitality of the wealthy

The practice of politicians of relatively modest means accepting the holiday hospitality of richer friends is nothing new. A prewar newsreel showed Winston Churchill painting a landscape in the south of France, presumably at the Cape d'Al villa of Lord Beaverbrook, a well-known seducer of politicians of both the left and right. Later, there were other newsreel shots of Sir Winston painting near his host's home of Marrakesh, or aboard the Onassis yacht.

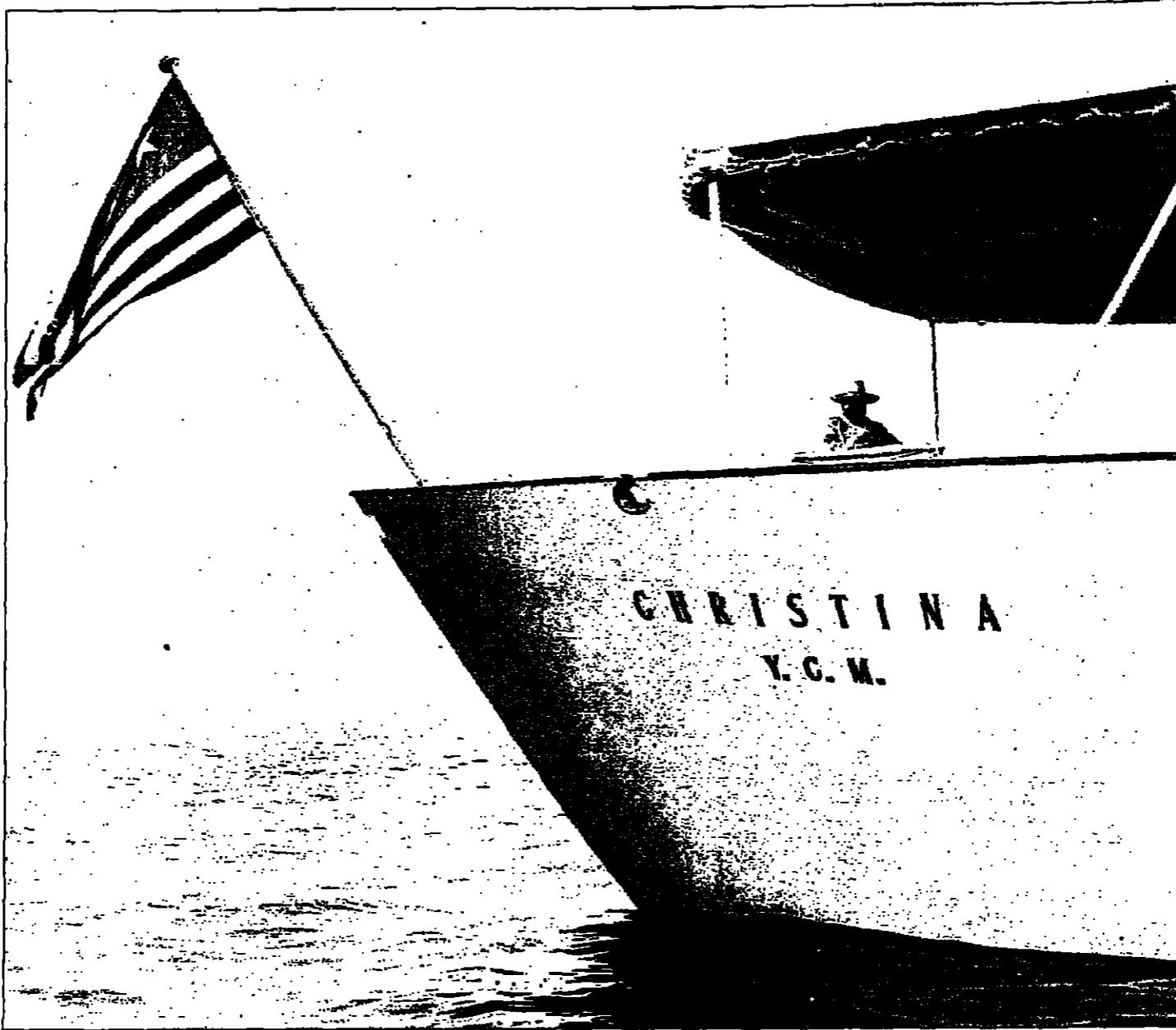
When journalists asked about Mrs Thatcher's summer plans when she was still in office, Bernard Ingham, her press secretary, seemed unwilling to confirm that she was again to be the guest of Lady Glover. He succeeded in persuading the media to avoid harassing the prime minister on the only genuinely foreign holiday Mrs Thatcher enjoyed.

Until the Mellor case, there has been curiously little interest in the identity of hosts or hostesses entertaining senior politicians at home or abroad. I was in the press party accompanying Edward Heath to China in 1974 after his February defeat, and learnt to my astonishment how frequently Mao Tse-tung had invited him there, before and later. Chairman Mao was under the delusion that Mr Heath, even out of office, could help organise Europe against the Soviets in a joint "squeeze" with the Chinese.

Chairman Mao's hospitality ensured that we were welcomed at Peking's airport by 30,000 banner-waving schoolchildren. When we wrote that Mr Heath's welcome had been just short of that accorded a head of state, Chairman Mao upped the ante. When we returned to the airport to fly to Shanghai, he added a military guard of honour, made up of smart Manchurian soldiers.

When the invitation was repeated the next year, Mr Heath punctiliously reported this Chinese hospitality in the first issue of the Register of Members' Interests of November 1975. He was supposed to do this, under the requirement to report "overseas visits relating to or arising out of membership of the House where the cost of any such visit has not been wholly borne by the member or by public funds".

The attitude of MPs towards foreign trips at the expense of others varies widely, as might be imagined among 651 individuals of infinitely varying tastes and scruples. A puritan stick-at-home such as Dennis Skinner, who does



Politician at sea: Sir Winston Churchill in 1959, pictured on a holiday aboard the Onassis-owned luxury yacht Christina

not have a passport, is unlikely to accept any foreign invitations. Particularly since his hair-shirted code of honour does not allow him to accept even a glass of milk from a journalist or a free hotel room at the National Executive Committee's headquarters hotel at party conferences.

At the other extreme, there are a handful of MPs of all parties who consider free trips abroad to be the most valuable of their parliamentary perks and, on occasion, pursue these vigorously. The MP for Tynemouth — known as Neville "Globe" Trotter — has declared more than a score of such free trips in the past 18 years.

In most cases free-tripping is not excessive and often means no more than visiting parts of the world a politician might not be able to afford. MPs are adequately paid but there is no allowance for foreign travel. The whips take advantage of such desires and tend to dispense those invitations which come through them to loyal and dutiful MPs. Quite a few MPs have

accepted invitations to South Africa or Hong Kong as part of their political education, rather than special concern. Normally such trips have been declared, as required, in the Register of Members' Interests.

A few MPs bend the rules somewhat. Having been offered a free tourist-class ticket to, say, Hong Kong, they go to the PR firm for the airline and ask to have this bumped up to first-class. This would normally cost more than £2,000. This has never been declared by any MP who has benefited from it, although the rules of the register demand the listing of any "payments or material benefits" received because they are MPs.

On occasion, an obsession with foreign travel goes further. Among the disclosures which emerged from the 1972 Poulson bankruptcy was the role of obscure Albert Roberts, a former miner and mines inspector who became the National Union of Miners sponsored Labour

MP for Normanton in 1951. He showed his interest in foreign travel by becoming active in the Inter-Parliamentary Union. On their behalf he travelled to Bangkok, then Nice, then Warsaw. His free-tripping obsession deepened in 1960 when he visited central Africa at the invitation of the PR firm Voice and Vision.

He was invited next year to Spain

at the behest of Franco's Falange

organised syndicates, or imitation

trade unions. Next year he was invited to Tanzania by Tanganyika Concessions or "Tanks", then headed by the former Tory MP, Captain Waterhouse. He showed his appreciation by writing articles flattery his host's activities. He also spoke in support of Portugal's fight against nationalists in Angola.

To continue his cost-free access to Spain, in 1963 Mr Roberts took over the role of Ness Edwards — father of the current MP Lin Golding — as the recruiter of Labour MPs to attend conferences of Falangist syndicates, which encompassed free holidays. He became an apologist for Franco's Spain, making a famous speech defending Spain's right to Gibraltar in May 1968. It was his Spanish obsession which led him to accept the invitation of the architect John Pouson to seek Spanish contracts for him. The payment he received emerged when Pouson went bankrupt in 1972.

Many MPs returning prematurely from holidays at their own or others' expense think that David Mellor has probably violated the rules for ordinary MPs, much less ministers, despite the prime minister's assurance to the contrary.

Among the few remaining Tory

squires, there is a lot of tut-tutting

about how slack behaviour has

become. There has always been a

problem of unequal distribution of

wealth, even among Conservatives.

But if he was invited to a country

house party, no old-timer, Tory

would ever think of asking for his

rail fare.

• The author is the editor of Parliamentary Profiles.

MINISTERIAL RULES

DAVID MELLOR's possible breach of ministerial rules has caused him a lot more trouble among his parliamentary colleagues than his adultery. MPs still think written rules about their sacred institution at Westminster should be abided by, while unwritten rules need not be.

The rules governing ministerial conduct were published for the first time last May. *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* is given to ministers when they take office. They are expected to read it and raise any queries with the permanent secretary of the department concerned. More serious problems can be raised with the prime minister.

Two key sections of the rule book apply to Mr Mellor's acceptance of the expenses-paid holiday from Mona Bauwens and the loan of a car from Elliott Bernier.

Paragraph 79 says that ministers should "not overlook the possible foreign policy implications of such day to day matters as offering hospitality to prominent political figures visiting this country or accepting social commitments of a similar kind."

"Such actions may be construed as significant by foreign observers of the United Kingdom. In any case of doubt, ministers should consult the foreign secretary before making commitments."

Paragraph 81 sets out the rules that should apply if a gift is accepted. "In all cases it should be reported to the Permanent Secretary. Gifts of small value (up to £125) may be retained by the recipient. Gifts of a higher value should be handed over to the Department for disposal."

Later the rules continue: "It is a well-established and recognised rule that no minister or public servant should accept gifts, hospitality or services from anyone which would, or might appear to, place him or her under an obligation. The same principle applies if gifts etc are offered to a member of their family."

This is left up to ministers good sense, it adds. "But any minister in doubt or difficulty over this should seek the PM's guidance." It is understood that no ministers have asked the prime minister's advice on whether or not to accept gifts.

Asked whether Mr Mellor had sought Margaret Thatcher's permission over accepting the air tickets to Marbella in 1990, Downing Street officials merely said that records were not kept "on that sort of thing".

JILL SHERMAN



Politician at bay: Mr Mellor in the headlines

There was no such footage of Mrs Thatcher's holiday on Metta, the yacht of Lord Harvington, the wealthy former Conservative MP for Nanwyc. Sir Robert Grant-Ferris, nor have I seen any still or television film of Mrs Thatcher's frequent visits to Freudenberg Schloss, the Swiss castle on Lake Zug owned by her old friend, Lady Glover. From the late 1970s Mrs Thatcher and her family have spent almost every summer holiday waited on by its staff of 18. Lady Glover again persuaded the family to spend their Christmas holiday there in the dismal aftermath of Mrs Thatcher's ousting from office.

Tom Kalin, hailed as a new hero for homosexuals, talks about his new film, *Swoon*

On location in queer street

When the film *Basic Instinct* first came out in America, protests were organised against it. cinemas were picketed, and people wore T-shirts saying "Sharon Stone did it". The film was condemned as a gratuitous attack on the homosexual community because it portrayed a lesbian as a psychopathic killer. Worse still, it followed *Silence of the Lambs*, which had portrayed a homo-

sexual man as a psychopathic serial killer. This coincidence was interpreted as a homophobic plot. There was much moaning about the lack of positive images of homosexuals in Hollywood.

Less than a year later, a new film, *Swoon*, which opens in Britain today, portrays two homosexual men as psychopathic killers. There are no protests. There are great reviews. The film's director,

Tom Kalin, is hailed as a new messiah in the homosexual community.

Swoon is about two real-life Jewish intellectuals whose love became so obsessive, it allowed them to plan the "perfect" crime. In 1924, Nathan "Babe" Leopold Jr and Richard "Dickie" Loeb kidnapped and murdered a 14-year-old boy in Chicago, but were eventually caught by the clues they left behind and their

twisted alibis. Their trial became an international sensation; their defence was based on the suggestion that their criminality was linked to their sexuality. This allowed them to avoid death sentences by pleading insanity.

So far, so homophobic, it seems. But what takes *Swoon* out of the *Basic Instinct* league is Kalin's reinterpretation of the events of 1924 with the insights of contemporary attitudes. The prurient and vicious headlines, the bigoted ideas and the extraordinary medical and psychological theories of that time are garishly illuminated.

Kalin thinks the main difference between himself and the so-called Hollywood homophobes is that *Basic Instinct* was, overall, a stupid movie. The man whose entire film budget was \$1 million (£588,000) refused to take the issue entirely seriously. He does point out that there is presently a second wave of attack on *Basic Instinct* — it is now being panned by heterosexual women for being misogynist, not homophobic.

"But then there are the others who find it liberating that a woman can have sex with anybody she wants, murder them, and get away with it," he laughs. "That's at least messily and challenging."

At 30, Kalin takes an appropriately weary tone. This is his first full-length feature film, and he has immediately been pigeonholed as a frontrunner in the "New Queer" or "PoMo Homo" (postmodern homosexual) cinema. Sharing his pigeonhole are Gregg Araki for *The Living End*, a road movie about two HIV positive lovers; Todd Haynes for *Poison*, set in a men's prison; and Christopher Munch for *The Hours and Times*, about a supposed, dirty weekend featuring John Lennon and Brian Epstein.

"Well the market demands you become some sort of trend.

"This label, New Queer Cinema, is about us reclaiming a label used to denigrate homosexuals. It's ironic"

director, instead of looking at it as experimental art. I would like to be seen just as a film director."

Kalin knew about the 1924 case long before he knew he was homosexual. Growing up in Chicago, he loved to look through scrapbooks which his mother and grandmother had kept of fascinating crimes. "It was the only alluring and glamorous element was played down." Hitchcock is so repressed, that although

his subject matter does have broad appeal. In 1954, Richard Fleischer made *Compulsion*, based on the same trial, and in 1948 Alfred Hitchcock directed *Rope*, but in both, the homosexual element was

do nothing, he gives them

green light.

He prefers *Compulsion*, which starred Orson Welles as the trial lawyer, and made much of the Jewish persecution aspect in the McCarthy era. He points out that *Swoon* is "very tame sexually".

What Kalin does much more successfully than the previous films is to establish the obsessive relationship which led to the loosening of inhibitions, both criminal and sexual. "It's the same dynamic you get in other films, it's just that there the obsessive desire always involved women. Nobody says: 'These pathological heterosexuals are having too much sex and it leads them to murder.' Yet Leopold and Loeb became the basis of the long-lasting myth of the pathological homosexual."

There is a rise in "gay bashing" in America, and next month one state is attempting to remove laws preventing discrimination against homosexuals. Kalin has been charting it all. "There's been a shift to the right. And the 'family values' stuff fuels homophobia. It's still a war out there."

KATE MUR



Crime and passion: Daniel Schachet and Craig Chester, obsessive lovers in *Swoon*

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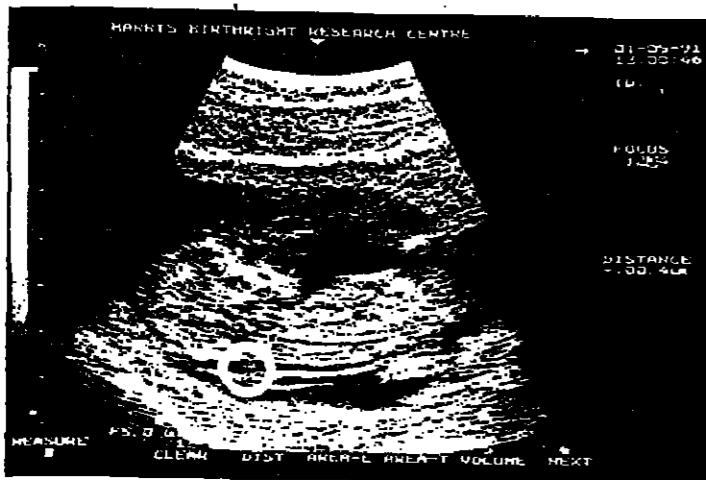
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THE TIMES

A clearer image of motherhood



Picture of risk: on this ultrasound image the "dark space" marker which indicates a baby has an increased chance of being born severely handicapped is shown in the circle

Barbara Clark believes in her right to choose. She chose her career carefully and, like many professional women, she chose to delay having a family until her late thirties. But she knew that choice had its price — her age meant the baby had an increased risk of being born severely handicapped, and the test to check this increased the possibility of miscarriage.

But Mrs Clark has now become one of the first to benefit from a new, pain-free ultrasound method of screening for Down's syndrome, and other less common disorders that promises to take much of the agony out of that choice. The test carries no risk of miscarriage, and might mean that only those at the very highest risk of having an affected baby will have to progress to the more dangerous and uncomfortable tests now on offer.

For the five years up to her fortieth birthday, Mrs Clark, a London barrister, and her husband, a solicitor, had hoped for a baby. When she became pregnant last year they were delighted, but when she was three months pregnant, the baby she was carrying died.

In January this year, she gave birth to Helena, now eight months old and perfectly healthy. The possibility of losing this baby, too, made it difficult to contemplate either of the present tests for Down's — amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS) — both of which carry about one in 100 risk of miscarrying a healthy baby even if performed by a consultant who specialises in the technique.

At 40, statistically, Mrs Clark's

risk of having a baby with Down's or other serious mentally handicapping chromosomal disorder was high: one in 45 (see chart).

Because of her previous problems, she was referred to King's College Hospital in south east London, which contains the Harris Birthright Research Centre for Fetal Medicine, one of the world's leading centres for diagnosis and treatment of the unborn baby. She was given the chance to take part in a preliminary trial of a pioneering method of screening.

The new screening test, developed by Kypros Nicolaides, the centre's director and professor of foetal medicine, is based on existing ultrasound techniques which are pain-free, non-invasive and carry no risk of miscarriage. Mrs Clark was one of 1,500 volunteers who took part in the two-year trial, just completed. The trial is likely to lead to a simple screening test, which Professor Nicolaides hopes will be available to all women in all hospitals in the country, regardless of age, within the next two years.

Professor Nicolaides has found that 90 per cent of those who are pregnant with a baby with Down's can be detected by the presence of a large black "space" behind the developing foetus's neck which shows up clearly on an ultrasound scan. Spina bifida could be detected at this stage only if very pronounced, and would have to be further investigated at the routine full abnormality ultrasound scan at about 20 weeks.

Next week, Professor Nicolaides is sending letters to all GPs, offering to carry out the new screening test for a trial period of a

Aileen Ballantyne
reports on a new ultrasound screening for Down's syndrome that could soon be made available to all pregnant women

year at King's College Hospital for up to 20,000 women of all ages when they are only 11 weeks pregnant. His aim is to make it available to all women.

The dark "space" that shows up on the test is an additional volume of fluid, which is a marker for the characteristically foreshortened neck of babies with Down's. A woman whose unborn baby carries the marker will be given a statistical estimate of her risk of having an affected child based on this sign plus her age. She will then be offered a free modified CVS test which can produce a definitive result within three days.

This represents a huge step forward. A woman who goes for this option will know definitely whether or not she is carrying an affected baby when she is only three months pregnant, and will be able to opt for a relatively straightforward abortion rather than the highly traumatic mini-labour sometimes necessary because of the built-in delay with present tests.

The newer modified version of CVS, is quicker because it does not require waiting for the cells to culture, a process which normally takes three weeks. But it is considered too unreliable to be used on its own. However, Professor Nicolaides points out, when it is taken together with the marker it gives a definite result.

When Mrs Clark was told her test results, it came as a pleasant surprise and she decided that, for her, the risk of a CVS was not worth taking. "Statistically, you are no longer aged 40, you are 32," Professor Nicolaides told her. "That means you came in with about a one in 45 chance of having



Picture of health: Barbara Clark and baby Helena — she says she would not hesitate to rely on the new ultrasound test again

can be done so early.

In an article in the *Lancet* of September 19, Professor Nicolaides argues for the wider use of ultrasound scans to pick up serious abnormalities, and stresses that the present invasive methods of diagnosis have resulted in only a small reduction in the number of babies with Down's and other chromosomal abnormalities born in England and Wales every year.

The latest Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys figures back up his argument. They show that in 1980, 7.3 per 10,000 babies born had Down's syndrome, compared with 5.9 per 10,000 in 1990.

Although the risk of giving birth to a Down's baby is considerably higher for women aged about 36 and over, most Down's syndrome babies in Britain are still born to younger women, because it is mainly younger women who have babies. Professor Nicolaides says that the present method of offering the invasive tests only to older women is picking up only about a third of the cases.

Ultrasound scans have, until now, appeared to be limited in their use for detecting disorders such as Down's at an early stage because of the complexity and length of the procedure. Professor Nicolaides' optimism that this test will be in use in all hospitals within the next two years is based partly on the fact that the marker is so obvious.

Doctors have observed that babies with Down's syndrome also have a shorter than average thigh bone, and a missing bone in the smallest finger. These are difficult to pick up by ultrasound at an early stage. But the increased volume of fluid behind the neck is particularly sensitive to measurement by ultrasound, making it a suitable candidate for a widespread test.

The use of this new marker as a tool to check who really needs to go through the next "hurdle" of more invasive tests to be absolutely certain looks extremely promising. It is a calculated risk, but one Mrs Clark says she would willingly take again. "I was not so completely free of anxiety as some of my friends who had had CVS," she says. "But for me, it was worth it."

She approached the choice as she would any important decision. She looked at the percentages. Professor Nicolaides spelt out the risk: a one in 150 avoidable risk of having a severely mentally handicapped baby against a one in 100 chance of miscarrying a perfectly healthy one. Why did she decide to take the risk? She hesitated for only a second before replying: "Mathematically it made sense."

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FOETAL ABNORMALITIES: THE STATISTICS

Maternal age	Risk of carrying a baby with:	
	Down's syndrome	Chromosomal abnormality including Down's
25	1 in 1,500	
30	1 in 800	
35	1 in 300	1 in 110
36	1 in 175	1 in 90
37	1 in 145	1 in 80
38	1 in 125	1 in 70
39	1 in 90	1 in 50
40	1 in 80	1 in 45
43	1 in 30	1 in 20
45	1 in 20	1 in 15

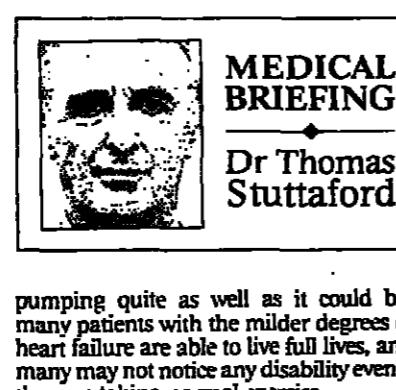
Source: Harris Birthright Research Centre for Fetal Medicine

On matters of the heart

SIR Geraint Evans died peacefully this week, greatly mourned by the opera world, eight days after suffering a heart attack.

A coronary thrombosis is only one of the causes of heart failure. Many other hearts will succumb, to a greater or lesser extent, to high blood pressure, which has either risen to alarming heights or has been present for too long, to valvular heart disease, to thyrotoxicosis or a host of other conditions.

The mere mention of the words "heart failure", which can be sudden or gradual, can conjure up, to the layman, the prospect of imminent death. However, it is merely the technical expression used by doctors to describe the pumping action of the heart when its output is no longer adequate to maintain the optimum circulation to the vital organs so that they may work with maximum efficiency. In order to avoid unnecessarily frightening patients, many doctors prefer to use the euphemism "heart strain", which probably gives a better description of the state of the heart. Although it might not be



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

ventricular strain patients will notice swollen ankles and may complain of upper abdominal discomfort from an enlarged liver. Left ventricular failure often leads to right-sided failure as well.

Generations of doctors have relied upon digitalis, or its artificial substitutes, to control the heart rate and rhythm, and diuretics to make the kidneys work overtime and, by passing more urine, ease the burden on the heart.

In the past few years a new group of drugs, the ACE inhibitors — drugs such as captopril (marketed as Acepri or Capoten), enalapril (Innoven) and lisinopril (Carace, Zestril) — have been introduced. But despite their proven efficacy doctors have been slow to accept a change in their well-established prescribing habits. Now, having read the evidence published during this year in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, even the most conservative doctors must admit that they owe it to their patients with heart failure to consider ACE inhibitors as a means of prolonging the length, and enhancing the quality, of their lives.

Healing hand

IT IS surprising how many patients tolerate the carpal-tunnel syndrome without consulting a doctor. The syndrome is characterised by pain and tingling in the thumb and first three fingers. It may also extend up the arm. The pain is worse at night, and the syndrome can result in the patient losing strength in their grip and a weak thumb, leading them to drop things unexpectedly.

The carpal-tunnel syndrome is due to pressure on the median nerve where it runs under a strap of tough, fibrous tissue at the wrist. If the tissue around the nerve becomes swollen or inflamed the median nerve becomes pinched.

Women are more likely to suffer from carpal-tunnel syndrome than men, and it is most common between the ages of 30 and 65. It has previously been noted that the menopause can induce the trouble, but until recent research from Israel was reported in the *BMJ* there has never been any suggestion that the symptoms could be alleviated by HRT. This is now shown to be the case.

For those patients who reject HRT, or are unsuitable for it, a minor operation, or even a hydro-cortisone injection, can ease the pressure on the pinched nerve and relieve the symptoms.

Surgery the solution when hernia strikes

RECENTLY, Saddam Hussein secretly flew a British surgical team to Jordan to operate on his trusty lieutenant and loyal Ibrahim who, it is claimed, was suffering from a hernia, a rupture.

Hernias have an undescended testicle, so the diagnosis often causes unnecessary concern to many patients. Some men, perhaps having seen advertisements for trusses, expect terrible complications; others see it as a reflection on, or danger to, their manhood. But their manhood is only at stake if, as

may happen, the blood supply to the testicles is inadvertently damaged during surgery.

Hernias can affect either sex and any age group. They are caused by a defect in the muscle covering the abdomen so that the abdominal contents are able to protrude through the weak patch, thus causing a swelling in the groin. Usually the swelling can be easily popped back into the abdominal cavity: the hernia is then described as being "easily reducible". Complications can occur if the protruberant intestine is

trapped, or "incarcerated". If the blood supply to the trapped part of the gut is cut off strangulation follows, and a potentially very serious emergency exists.

Because of the danger of incarceration and strangulation, an operation should always be undergone when a hernia is diagnosed. In all but older patients danger from surgery is insignificant, unless the operation is done as an emergency, possibly late at night when the patient is under-prepared and the hospital staff not at their best.



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Physician — infect thyself

At one point in the film *Hair Soup*, David Sacher, playing the scientist Roger Altounyan, is shown in the throes of a self-induced asthma attack. As he struggles for breath his eyes widen with elation. "This is wonderful," he gasps. "It's the worst attack I've had in years." The moment is a neat illustration of the key elements of self-experimentation: courage, imagination and a resolve that seems to border on recklessness.

Dr Altounyan spent nearly ten years, from the mid 1950s to the mid 1960s, personally testing hundreds of compounds in an attempt to find a cure for a disease that affects over two million people in this country. An asthmatic himself, he would provoke two or three attacks a week by boiling up a hell brew of guinea pig hair to which he was allergic — hence the film's title — and then inhaling the vapour.

By the time he got to compound 670 in 1964 he had discovered Intal, still one of the most widely used treatments for the illness, and probably shortened his life: he died at the age of 65 in 1985 after years of severe chest problems.

His daughter Barbara, a BBC television reporter who appears as herself in the drama, says: "All those attacks must have cost him something, but you cannot be angry about it because it was worth every moment to him. He was angry that asthma was not taken seriously and totally obsessed about getting something done. And he did revolutionise the treatment."

Intal is particularly effective for children and younger asthmatics: regular use can either prevent attacks altogether or substantially reduce their frequency and severity.

Hair Soup was produced by Kim Gordon, Mrs Altounyan's husband. "There is a noble tradition of scientists using themselves in this way," Mr Gordon says. "I did some further research on the subject because I wanted to see how relevant it was today. It still seems to go on. For instance, I talked to a researcher who took one of the early beta-blockers and a toxicologist who swallowed hookworm larvae."

In his book *Who Goes First*, Lawrence Altman, a doctor and the medical correspondent of *The New York Times*, describes examples of those who have used their own bodies as raw material for research. From the 16th century to the

Liz Gill on the research scientists who double as their own guinea-pigs

present day, doctors and scientists have given themselves diseases; injected themselves with new vaccines; swallowed new drugs submitted to experimental procedures; deliberately induced pain in order to develop ways of stopping it; subjected their bodies to extreme stresses; and gone without certain foods to study the role of vitamins.

"I was amazed to find what a strong tradition there is of self-

'No matter how many lab tests you do on animals or on computer, anything new has to be tested on a human being'

experimentation, particularly in England, and how long it's been going on. The earliest example I've traced to Padua, in Italy, at the end of the 1500s," Dr Altman says. "No matter how many lab tests you do, whether on animals or on computers or in test tubes, there comes a point where anything new has to be tested on a human being."

There are many reasons for self-experimentation, but I think the overwhelming one is belief in the golden rule: don't do something to someone else that you would not be prepared to do or have done to yourself. There are other attractions: dependency — physicians and scientists may see things ordinary volunteers might overlook — plus the convenience, availability and reliability of one's self."

For some, like Jesse Lazear, who died of yellow fever in experiments to establish the role played by mosquitoes in spreading the disease, the endeavour can end sadly.

However, Dr Altman says he was surprised by the low number of fatalities. "Everyone talks about how dangerous it is, but I only found a handful of deaths. Occasionally someone is very foolish, but on the whole I think self-testers tend to know their limits."

In some areas of medicine there seems to be a tradition of going first. Many vaccines were taken by their originators and as recently as 1986 the French physician Daniel Zagury tested a candidate AIDS vaccine for safety by injecting it into his own arm.

There are strict rules governing patient trials and tests on healthy volunteers, but self-experimentation seems to fall into a sort of limbo. It is not mentioned in the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry's extensive guidelines on the testing of new medicines. "Drug companies don't like it because they don't want the legal responsibility if something goes wrong," Dr Altman says. "A lot of companies have rules against it, but some turn a blind eye."

Paul Jackett, assistant health and safety officer at the Medical Research Council, says there are no specific official prohibitions relating to self-testing. "There are guidelines from the national Health and Safety Executive which tell scientists not to use their own blood or tissue for experiments in genetic manipulation," Dr Jackett says. "This is because if there was an accident and a mutated cell was reintroduced into the original host body there would be a danger that it would not be seen as a foreign agent and the immune system would not be alerted."

The most memorable self-tests have been the most dramatic. Most doctors will know the names of Werner Forssmann, the young German intern who pushed a 30-inch catheter tube through a vein in his arm into his own heart and so revolutionised cardiac techniques in the late 1920s, and John Scott Haldane, who seems to have spent much of his career at the turn of the century subjecting his body to extremes of temperature, oxygen deprivation or the inhalation of various noxious gases. The good doctor even passed on his enthusiasm to his son Jack. But much self-testing goes on at a more conventional level.



Testing himself in the search of a cure: Roger Altounyan. "He revolutionised asthma treatment"

Chris Curtis, an entomologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is currently testing mosquito repellent by rubbing it on one arm and then putting both arms in the mosquitoes' cage. "You offer them the arm without the lotion to check that they really are hungry. We also test in lower and lower dosages until it fails, so both arms get bitten."

"I only come up in little bumps, I don't get all itchy, and the mosquitoes are uninfected so there is no danger of malaria. I'm not being a great hero. But it is the best way of doing it. You get quite different results on animals or artificial membrane. It's also a lot easier. I'd have to go through an ethics committee if I used someone else and it doesn't seem worth it. This

way I'm my own personal ethics committee," Dr Curtis says.

An increasing aversion among many of today's researchers to animal experimentation may lead to more rather than less self-testing. Maureen Roberson devised her own research project for her masters degree in pharmacology and plant chemistry from Strathclyde University after discovering that all the department's suggestions involved animals at some point.

Mrs Roberson, a member of Niche (the Network of Individuals and Campaigns for Humane Education), used her own blood to measure the action of a group of plant compounds on the coagulation process. "I used a syringe to take 20ml of blood three times a week for about ten weeks. It didn't

hurt. I just felt relief that I was doing that instead of something involving an animal's death."

Ronald Mann, a former member of the Committee on Safety of Medicines and currently director of a drug safety company, remains sceptical about self-testing. "It's not particularly common and it's not particularly commendable. You have to go back some time to find the classic examples. Drug development nowadays is done in highly controlled conditions, using carefully selected volunteers. It can be dangerous to start tossing the stuff down yourself. It's not reasonable, it's not objective."

• *Hair Soup* will be shown on ITV on September 29 at 7.30pm, except for the Thame TV region, where it will be shown on October 2 at 12.10am.

The tooth, the whole tooth ...

A look at the routes of holistic dentistry

WHEN you open your mouth you reveal more about yourself than you might think, according to Jorgen Steen Hartz, a Danish holistic dentist who will be explaining his approach at the Healing Arts exhibition in London's Royal Horticultural Halls this weekend.

Dr Hartz says that not only can your teeth and gums reveal your general state of health, but other complaints can be cured by correct attention to them.

An initial consultation at his dental practice just north of Copenhagen would take approximately 90 minutes and cost about £60. He would familiarise himself with your lifestyle, eating habits and any physical or psychological problems you might have. He might relax you with cranial osteopathy — a head massage which renders injections unnecessary — or put electric probes into your mouth and measure the current created by metallic fillings. "If you have a current above 3 microamps, you have a battery in your mouth," he says. "The saliva becomes the battery acid, the teeth the electrodes and the metal ions leak out of the fillings and go straight to the brain."

Holistic dentists believe that many physical problems can be caused by teeth and gums. "Each tooth is linked to a specific meridian in the body, and an imbalance in the one creates disturbances that affect the other. So an imbalance in the colon can cause disturbances in the sixth and seventh teeth which can lead to toothache, decay or gingivitis."

Unlike most British dentists he advises against "too effective tooth-brushing", and suggests using bicarbonate of soda rather than toothpaste, "to make the mouth more alkaline".

He also advises his patients to eat the sort of diet he feels the teeth dictate. "About one eighth meat — because we have four canine teeth — and the rest grains, for our cow-like molars to chew, and fruits and vegetables, for our rabbit-like front teeth."

The British Dental Association retains "an open mind". Bryan Harvey, its scientific advisor says: "The mouth can reflect the state of the body in certain extreme circumstances — very red, puffy and bleeding gums can be a sign of leukaemia. But holistic medicine won't cure active dental disease."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Simply call 0839 12 11 11 and leave your three answers with your name and address. Lines will be open until midnight. The first winner selected for each day will win a pair of Connoisseur Class return tickets. A further five runners-up will each win a pair of return economy tickets. Winners' names will be published in *The Times* at a later date.

WEDNESDAY'S ANSWERS
1 Norma Jean Baker
2 George Gershwin
3 Charles River

WEDNESDAY'S WINNERS
First prize: M. McDonald, Kilmarnock.
Five runners up: I. Weeks, Chipping Norton; D. Lee, Saltford; R. O'Hanlon, Brockton; Mrs. K. Masado, London; Mrs. Millard, London.

TODAY'S QUESTIONS
1 What day and date will the



TOKEN 11

Miles of beach

Honolulu is the capital of the state of Hawaii — but it is not on Hawaii Island. It is on a smaller island to the north, called Oahu, which means "the gathering place" — and it is here that millions of visitors gather from all over the world.

You are in the tropics here, where the days are sunny and the nights warm, and the trade winds freshen the air. In Honolulu, you can see the Iolani Palace built by King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian Islands, and a few miles to the west a more famous historic sight — Pearl Harbor, where the Japanese air attack brought the United States into

the war in 1941. But the main

goal of the tourists on this island is the 2½ mile-long Waikiki beach, and all the exotic nightclubs and restaurants in the town behind it.

North of Honolulu, the Polynesian Cultural Centre, has displays of the traditional life of the islands, while along the coast there are many more beaches with swimming, snorkelling and surfing.

Hawaii Island offers, above all, volcanoes. At Kaimu Beach Park, there is a beach of jet black sand, fringed by palm trees. There are fine beaches and wonderful scenery on all the other islands, and the little island of Lanai proposes the delights of the world's largest

pineapple plantation.

King Kalakaua's palace

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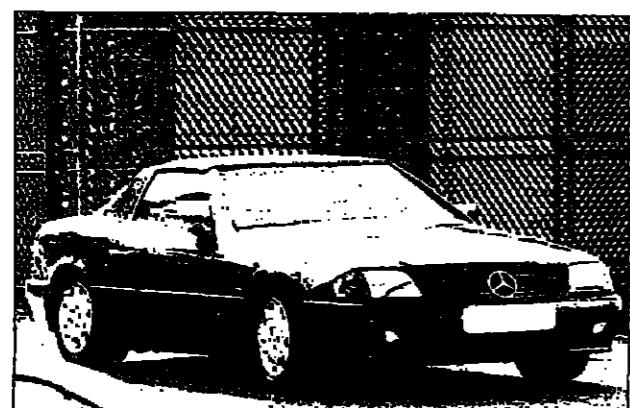
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North of Honolulu, the Polynesian Cultural Centre, has displays of the traditional life of the islands, while along the coast there are many

Two-way traffic in foreign parts



The Princess of Wales has given up her Mercedes-Benz, above. But the alternatives may not be as British as they seem. Kevin Eason reports

How was the Princess of Wales to know that although the badge might be the symbol of everything British, under the bonnet beat the heart of a pure Teutonic thoroughbred?

The Princess stumbled from one public relations gauntlet to another this week. First, she returned her £7,000 Mercedes-Benz SL sports car as a gesture of support for the struggling British car industry. Tabloid reporters clapped their hands with glee when she turned up to an official engagement in a Vauxhall, complete with the familiar Griffin badge, the symbol that flies over the company's headquarters at Luton, Bedfordshire.

Unfortunately, her Vauxhall was about as British as bratwurst. The Senator is made of lock, stock and gearstick at the Opel plant near Frankfurt, and imported by Vauxhall.

However, the Princess — if she was involved in choosing her official car — could be forgiven for the confusion. The badge on the bonnet no longer signifies how British or German or French any car is. Europe's car makers have started to integrate their operations across borders, so that

although a car is assembled on a single site, it may use parts from the world.

Take the Vauxhall Cavalier, one of Britain's bestselling cars and considered by British fleet buyers an ideal "home" product. Cavaliers pour out of Luton at about 40 an hour, but come as a conglomeration of bits and pieces from plants all over the world.

As a subsidiary of General Motors, Vauxhall can draw on supplies from sister GM plants for almost any components. As a result, engines come from as far afield as Japan and Australia, even Hungary and Brazil, while gearboxes come from Austria, Germany or Japan.

The result is a car which is officially 66 per cent British by value, although the official "local content" percentage includes everything from the wages of the Luton workers to the cost of electricity.

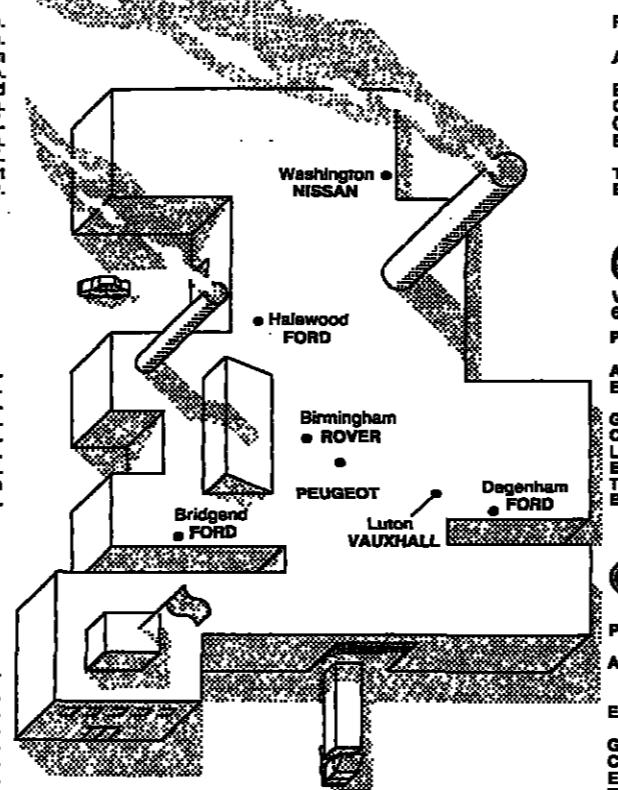
The Ford Sierra, the Cavalier's nearest competitor, is now made in Belgium, because the car was withdrawn from Dagenham, Essex, so the British plant could concentrate exclusively on making the Fiesta. However, the Sierras engines made at Dagenham and Fiesta engines made in Spain.

ROVER 200
85 per cent British
Parent company: British Aerospace. Assembled Longbridge, Birmingham. Engines UK and Honda supplied from Swindon. Gearboxes Longbridge and Swindon Honda. Chassis and body UK and Japan. Trim UK. Exports 40 per cent worth about £80 million annually.

PEUGEOT 405
65 per cent British
Parent company: PSA of France. Assembled Ryton, Coventry. Engines France. Gearboxes France. Chassis and body UK. Trim UK. Exports 70 per cent of output worth £500 million annually.

JAGUAR XJ6 SALOON
90 per cent British
Parent company: Ford Motor Company, USA. Assembled UK made by Jaguar. Gearboxes Germany. Chassis and Body Jaguar, UK. Trim UK. Exports 70 per cent of output worth £200 million annually.

HOW BRITISH ARE BRITISH CARS?



NISSAN PRIMERA
80 per cent European
Parent company: Nissan Motor Company of Japan. Assembled Washington. Engines UK (Washington). Gearboxes Japan. Chassis and body UK (Washington). Electrics Nine European countries plus Japan. Trim UK. Exports 80 per cent worth £695 million.

VAUXHALL
88 per cent British
Parent company: General Motors of the United States. Assembled Luton, Bedfordshire. Engines Germany, Austria, Brazil and Japan. Gearboxes Japan, Germany, Austria. Chassis and body Germany and Luton. Electrics UK. Trim (seats, etc) UK. Exports 60 per cent of output worth about 2200 million a year.



FORD ESCORT
more than 90 per cent British
Parent company: Ford Motor Company of the United States. Assembled Halewood, Merseyside (RS2000), Dagenham, Essex, and Bridgend, South Wales and Spain. Gearboxes UK. Chassis and body UK. Trim UK. Exports 20 per cent worth £230 million.



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Parent company: Ford Motor Company of the United States. Assembled Halewood



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1992



TODAY IN
BUSINESS
DETHATCHED

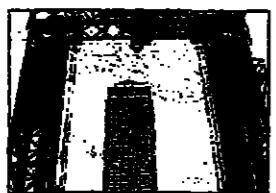


Britain's rigid labour market has become more flexible as the unions withered during the Thatcher years
Page 23

SPRING TIME

Spring Ram has again bucked the depressed conditions, as strong growth in exports boosted first-half profits
Tempus, page 20

IN LIMBO



Canary Wharf's future is in the government's court after the project's bankers decided not to pursue an American bid
Page 20

PORTFOLIO

Portfolio expands from Monday into a seven-day chance to win: £2,000 each day in *The Times* and £5,000 in the *Sunday Times*

TOMORROW



Alan Bowkett, the chief executive of Berisford, is not afraid to risk his own money in the company he runs, having already invested more than £1 million



THE ROUND

US dollar 1.7070 (-0.025)
German mark 2.5409 (-0.0234)
Exchange index 83.1 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)



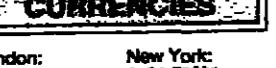
STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1936.70 (+34.9)
FT-SE 100 2621.2 (+40.7)
New York Dow Jones 3292.74 (+14.05)*
Tokyo Nikkei Average 18609.95 (+327.23)



INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 5%
3-month interbank: 9%*
3-month eligible bills: 8%*
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3%*
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.90-3.88%
30-year bonds: 97%*-97%*



CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 1.7103 £ 1.705*
DM 2.8310 \$ 1.465*
SwF 2.2553 \$ 1.306*
FF 8.7820 \$ 0.530*
Yen 206.42 \$ 1.126*
Index 83.1 \$ 0.94238
EQU 21.76200 \$ 0.94238
EQU 286178 £ 1.85749
London Foreign market close



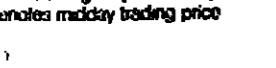
GOLD

London Fixing: \$ 348.30 PM \$ 348.25
Close \$ 348.30 PM \$ 348.60
EQU 203.80-204.30
New York: \$ 348.35-348.85*



NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$ 20.45/bbl (\$20.55)



RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.9 August (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Blue Arrow head acted in a way that was 'clearly not acceptable' for someone in authority

Heseltine to press for ban on Berry

BY GEORGE SIVELL

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, is to seek through the courts the disqualification of Antony Berry, the former chairman and chief executive of Blue Arrow, as a company director.

The move follows publication yesterday of the long-awaited 500-page report into Blue Arrow. It covers a £25 million loan by Blue Arrow to a company controlled by Peter de Savary relating to a property transaction at Canvey Island, Essex; the financing of the Blue Arrow Challenge attempt to win the America's Cup yacht race for Britain; property transactions in Portugal; and share dealings in Tottenham Hotspur, of which Mr Berry is a director.

Of Mr Berry, the report says his 'acts and omissions' were 'clearly not acceptable conduct for someone in a position of authority in a public company'. The inspectors say Mr Berry 'fully co-operated with our inquiry' but add 'there are a number of occasions where we have not accepted Mr Berry's evidence either because, in our view, it was not credible or because it was contrary to other evidence which we have accepted'.

A spokesman for Mr Berry said he would contest the decision to seek a disqualification during the legal process. The DTI said yesterday that the disqualification procedure is lengthy. Mr Berry has not yet been sent the summons to which he is entitled to respond under an exchange of affidavits. This leads to a first hearing in the High Court before a registrar. He can

either deal with the matter or adjourn it to a hearing before a judge. Yesterday's report will count as admissible evidence in the proceedings.

Mr Berry's advisers stated: 'The inspectors have, unfortunately, made unjustified criticisms of Mr Berry. Their report contains insinuation and innuendo which is wholly unsupported by any evidence. In particular the most serious criticisms levelled against Mr Berry, namely that on a number of occasions he 'deliberately misled' the board are unsupported by any evidence and are unreasonable.'

Norman Tebbit, the former cabinet minister, was a non-executive director of Blue Arrow.

The report says he, and other non-executives, behaved responsibly and honourably.

Of the £25 million loan, the inspectors say: 'Our inquiry has not disclosed any fraud or impropriety concerning the Canvey transaction. We are satisfied that it was a genuine commercial transaction and was offered in good faith by Mr de Savary to Blue Arrow.'

The report accuses Mr Berry of deliberately making two misleading statements to the board concerning the Canvey transaction, of concluding the transaction despite the absence of board approval and without authority. He is also accused of deliberately omitting to inform the board about a revision to an agreement over the Blue Arrow Challenge, the attempt to win the America's Cup yacht race for Britain.

The report's summary states: 'Had Mr Berry told the

board at the 30 November 1988 meeting that on the previous day he had committed Blue Arrow to an estimated further £15 million expenditure on the America's Cup and was intending to defray this expense with profits from the Canvey project, which agreement needed to be signed within a matter of days, the board's reaction could have been very different. Mr Berry's failure to tell the board about the revision to the shareholder's agreement was deliberate and not because, as he contends, it was unnecessary to tell them, but because he knew that to tell them could affect his chances of a sympathetic response.'

Mr Berry was criticised for not bringing to the board transactions in which he had a possible conflict of interest. He was also criticised over a private joint venture in Portugal, over dealings between Blue Arrow and Tottenham Hotspur and over dealings in Tottenham Hotspur shares.

Publication of the report was withheld at the request of Justice McKinnon who presided over the Blue Arrow trial. The report was signed by the inspectors in June 1991.

The Serious Fraud Office ended Blue Arrow prosecutions on July 31 this year after criticism from the Court of Appeal, which said the first Blue Arrow trial had cost £40 million and was a disaster.

The trial arose from events surrounding the £837 million rights issue by Blue Arrow to finance the Manpower take-over in 1987.

Too much power, page 25

Rolls reversal hits Vickers

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

THE slump in demand for Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars has wiped out profits at Vickers and forced the board to axe 950 jobs at its plant in Crewe, Cheshire, at a cost of about £12 million.

Interim pre-tax losses have been trimmed from £4.3 million to £4.1 million, but the exceptional charge will not show up until the year-end figures.

Shareholders have had their interim dividend cut from 3.7p to 0.5p by Sir Colin Chandler, the chief executive, to ensure sufficient cash is available for investment. Dividend growth would resume, 'albeit from a lower level', when trading improved.

The shares tumbled 12p to

67p within minutes of the news, but rallied to just 1p lower at 78p.

The Rolls restructuring will reduce break-even volume to about 1,400 vehicles, half the equivalent level in 1990. Sir Colin said sales had fallen by 65 per cent over 18 months, with a heavy reduction in demand from Japan, ultimate home for almost 25 per cent of production in 1990.

Sir Colin said the business would have 'considerable potential whenever the upturn in trading occurs'.

All five of Vickers' other divisions traded satisfactorily, he said, although Cosworth's road engine volumes suffered from cutbacks at Ford and

In defence systems, hopes are high that the £520 million British Army order for the group's Challenger 2 tank will lead to large export orders, which 'could have a significant positive impact on the company's fortunes'. But the necessary increase in marketing spend may mean profits slip a little in the second half.

Medical equipment profits suffered against an excellent year in 1991, but aerospace has been successful and is making higher profits.

Jobs cut, page 2

Leading article, page 15

Tempus, page 20

Carsberg challenges insurance

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE 'heavy automatic losses' suffered by hundreds of thousands of insurance policyholders when they cashed in policies early were questioned by Sir Bryan Carsberg, the director general of fair trading, when he addressed the industry's representatives.

Sir Bryan, speaking yesterday at the annual conference of the Chartered Insurance Institute, said no other investments resulted in such losses. He suggested that the commission structure should be changed so that salesmen suffered as much as investors

for early encashments. This would ensure that the right products were sold.

The director general, who will shortly be commenting on proposed rules for the sale of investments, said that investors should be given a league table of the charges of different insurance companies.

Sir Bryan also said many investors have difficulty understanding investment products. He said he would be making recommendations for better consumer education.

Comment, page 23

BA agrees French airline purchase

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has agreed to pay £17.25 million for a 49.9 per cent share in TAT, the French independent airline.

The agreement, which should be clear of regulatory hurdles by January next year, is one of the main planks in BA's strategy of owning a large slice of an airline in each of the world's big markets.

BA has already bought into Deutsche BA in Germany, is setting up Air Russia and is confident of obtaining approval to take a stake in USAir. With the TAT deal, only the rapidly expanding Far East market remains untargeted. Talks are under way with Qantas, which is seeking private investors, and a number of other smaller carriers in the region.

BA is convinced that, with the single

European market only months away, it needs to break away from its dominant British base and the purchase of TAT, which could become total in five years, should provide the ideal launch pad into France and much of Europe.

TAT (Transport Aérien Transrégional), formed in 1968, owns or leases 54 aircraft, which are on average only eight years old and which carry 3 million passengers a year. It flies to 32 destinations in France, 14 of which link with Paris. One of its most important routes is to Gatwick which it serves three times a day from Paris and ten times a week from Lyon. BA now plans to integrate those services with its own long-haul routes, flying via Gatwick to 35 worldwide destinations.

TAT made a small profit in 1991 but is expected to plunge into the red this year. BA is convinced that, with the single

as it sought to expand its network of routes and bought new aircraft. Its extensive French internal network of international services are based mainly at Paris Orly although its headquarters are in Tours, in the Loire Valley.

TAT is essentially a family airline, founded by Michel Marchais, who is now president, with his son Rodolphe as chief executive. The majority of the shares are owned by the Marchais family with a further 25 per cent owned by Crédit National bank and the rest among the company's 1,500 staff.

The agreement to buy is conditional on approval from the EC competition directorate and from the French transport department. If it goes ahead, and proves successful, however, BA also has conditional approval to acquire the remaining 50.1 per cent stake by April 1997.



Before the storm: Peter de Savary, left, acted in good faith in his dealings with Tony Berry over Canvey Island

Barings is humbled by setback in Japan

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

BARINGS, the dynamic banking group once described as the sixth great power in Europe, has been humbled by losses in its securities division, caused principally by the collapse of financial markets in Japan.

Profits for the six months to end-June slumped 51 per cent to £11.8 million from £24.3 million.

The company is to make a further £10 million charge against profits in the second half to cover the cost of its empty office space.

Peter Baring, the chairman, would not reveal the size of the losses from the securities operations, which as recently as 1989 contributed more than half of total group profits.

However, trading volumes in the Japanese markets have fallen to 10 per cent of their peak, with some specialist markets such as warrants virtually drying up.

Mr Baring said the Japanese agency business was still reporting record revenues but these were not adequate to produce a healthy profit because of the high level of expenses in the Tokyo office.

Staffing levels in Japan are being reduced by 15 from a total 275 employees in the country. A total 108 jobs are being cut across the group, mostly in London.

Barings is withdrawing from Scandinavian securities and is closing down its Frankfurt office. German markets will in future be covered from London. Mr Baring said securities markets had shown little revival since the half-year end and remained 'not very exciting'.

Baring's other operations enjoyed a more successful half year. The corporate finance team was kept busy working on acquisitions by Inchcape, David S Smith and TI, the abortive Lloyds Bank bid for Midland Bank, and a Blue Circle rights issue.

Profits from banking and capital markets held up well, with no new loan loss provisions required.

Dillon Read, the Wall Street investment bank where Barings has a 40 per cent stake, 'made a significant contribution to the result'.

Funds under management remained stable but profits were down.

Central banks intensify battle to save the franc

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S exchange-rate mechanism survived another day amid the first tentative signs that Europe's central banks may eventually succeed in their battle against the speculators.

The Bundesbank, intervening heavily in foreign exchange markets, and some ERM member countries sought to relieve pressure further through cuts in interest rates or reintroduction and tightening of exchange controls.

The pressure on the French franc eased, as the currency closed at 3.4025 against the mark, an improvement of over a centime against Wednesday's close and comfortably ahead of the franc's ERM floor of Fr3.4305.

Britain will not re-enter the ERM in the foreseeable future, according to John Major, who in his speech to Parliament yesterday called for a substantial change to the way the system operates. In an apparent swipe at Helmut Schmidt, president of the Bundesbank, he said last week's run on sterling fol-

In Germany, prospects of an early rate cut faced a setback on the news that two federal states, North-Rhine Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg, suffered a monthly 0.3 per cent rise in prices in August, much higher than

predicted. The news suggest that Germany continues to suffer from strong inflationary pressures.

The Bundesbank announced that it was intervening in the markets. The intervention, believed to have run into several billion marks this week, has gone far beyond what would normally have been required from the German central bank.

In Bonn, government spokesmen were denying rumours that Germany was about to ditch some of its less enthusiastic European 'partners' in favour of an inner-core of fast-lane monetary union along with France and the Benelux countries. These rumours were intensified by newspaper reports in London and Bonn suggesting that President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl had agreed this week in Paris to press ahead with a fast-lane Franco-German monetary union in the light of growing

Abbey cuts its rate for new borrowers

ABBEY National, the second-largest mortgage lender, cut its base mortgage rate by 0.75 per cent to 9.95 per cent for new borrowers yesterday. The bank cut the rate for larger mortgages by just over 0.5 per cent (Lindsay Cook writes).

It also extended to January 31, 1994, its 1.75 per cent discount to first-time buyers borrowing less than 90 per cent of the value. This gives a minimum rate of 7.74 per cent on loans over £100,000. This is the ninth reduction since 1990 and Abbey borrowers with the average £55,000 loan have seen payments fall by £200.

Cheltenham & Gloucester, the sixth-largest society, has launched a fixed-rate mortgage at 8.25 per cent for two years with no strings attached. There is a £100 application fee, but borrowers who agree to a personal interview in a C&G branch pay only £50. It is the lowest fixed-rate mortgage ever offered by the society.

Nationwide Building Society has cut its mortgage rate by 0.75 per cent to 9.95 per cent. The second-largest society has made its cut for new borrowers from Monday and for existing borrowers from November 1. Lloyds Bank has cut its credit card rate from 1.9 per cent a month, an annual percentage rate of 23.3 per cent, to 1.8 per cent a month or 23.8 per cent per annum. Its gold card rate is reduced from 19.5 to 16.7 per cent a year.

Ricardo falls

Ricardo International's annual pre-tax profits fell from £4.65 million to £2.04 million. A final 3.8p dividend holds the total at 5.7p. It has allowed £320,000 to cover the departure of three directors.

Pay raised

Sir Paul Girolami, one of Britain's highest-paid chairmen, received an 11 per cent pay rise last year. Sir Paul, head of Glaxo, received £1,185,727 for the year to June 30.

Bennett loss

Bennett & Fountain Group made an annual pre-tax loss of £3.55 million (profits of £2.31 million). There is again no dividend.

Harland review

Harland Simon, whose shares were suspended this month, has appointed an executive committee to review its prospects and finances.

TV-am ahead

TV-am's interim pre-tax profits increased from £6.7 million to £9 million. The dividend is held at 4p.

Antofagasta dip

Antofagasta Holdings' interim pre-tax profits fell from £9.59 million to £8.83 million.

The dividend is held at 6p.

Government holds Wharf key as bid is rejected

BY MATTHEW BOND

THE government again holds the key to Canary Wharf's future after the project's bankers decided not to pursue a bid put forward by a group of American investors led by Larry Tisch and Lewis Ranieri.

The rejection of the proposals, also backed by Paul Reichmann of Olympia & York, the developer, leaves the government with two key decisions: to move several thousand civil servants to Canary Wharf and take advantage of bargain basement rents, and spend more than £1 billion of public money on the Jubilee line extension.

By rejecting the Tisch-Ranieri proposals, the Canary Wharf bankers appear to be banking on the civil servants being relocated. The rents that the government would pay could be used by the administrators running the project to raise a new loan. This, in turn, would be used to meet the first two capital instalments required by the government's demand that about £400 million of the Jubilee line costs be met by the private sector.

For example, if the government agreed to take 500,000 sq ft at Canary Wharf at an average rent of £20 a sq ft over the period of a lease, the administrators could raise between £80 million and £90 million of new money. This

amount would go most of the way to meeting the £100 million cost of the first two instalments of the private sector contribution.

One of the reasons the 11 bankers to the project rejected the Tisch-Ranieri proposals at a meeting in New York on Monday was, according to one banking source, the fact that, in exchange for little more than the Jubilee line contribution, the group would receive all future growth in the project's income stream and growth.

"If they can get all the upside, why can't we?" the source asked.

The New York decision reversed an earlier vote in favour of the Tisch-Ranieri proposals in Toronto last week by five members of the banking syndicate.

The reversal of that decision at Monday's meeting suggests the banks are split on how to deal with Canary Wharf's future.

The syndicate's gamble by meeting the agreed private sector contribution, the Jubilee line will actually be built, is, however, a big one. The imminent round of public-sector spending cuts could result in the project being cancelled altogether, regardless of whether the owner of O&Y comes up with any money.

Chairman resigns at Amber Day

BY MARTIN WALLER

PHILIP Green, the charismatic driving force behind Amber Day Holdings, the retail group that owns the What Everyone Wants budget clothing chain, has stood down as chairman and chief executive.

The move follows almost a year of stock market bear raids and disastrous publicity about the company and Mr Green's private business deals. His resignation accompanied a dire set of full-year figures from Amber Day, even failing short of the forecast made at the time of a profits warning three months ago.

Mr Green said his departure was prompted by the publicity, "much of which relates to me personally and to my family". He added: "It had become two and a half days a week working and two and a half days firefighting on issues that had nothing to do with the business."

David Thompson, the finance director, who is standing in as chairman until a replacement can be found, said the distraction of the "witch-hunt" against Mr Green had led to poor stock controls during the summer and a £3 million trading loss after the earlier profits warning.

Amber Day's share price, as high as 129p less than a year

ago, edged ahead 1p to 35p as the news of Mr Green's departure outweighed the figures. These showed pre-tax profits back from £10.1 million to £7.53 million in the year to August 1 despite a forecast in June that they would be no worse than in the previous year. A final 2p dividend makes a 3.1p total, against 2.7p.

Mr Green said he had invested £4 million in the business and retained a 10 per cent stake worth £3.4 million at today's prices. The "continual barrage" of unsubstantiated reports had started in January, he said.

David Thompson, the finance director, who is standing in as chairman until a replacement can be found, said the distraction of the "witch-hunt" against Mr Green had led to poor stock controls during the summer and a £3 million trading loss after the earlier profits warning.

"I believe it is prudent to regard the present conditions



Taking cover: More O'Ferrall, the billboard and bus shelter advertising contractor, raised pre-tax profits to £936,000 (£812,000) in the six months to June 30, despite lower operating profits in the UK and Ireland. Russell Gore-Andrews, the chairman, announced yesterday. A fall in interest payable to £857,000 (£1.6 million) and a strong performance in Belgium compensated for a slump in operating profits from £1.3 million to £241,000 in the UK and Ireland. Turnover was static at £28.6 million (£28.8 million). Earnings per share and the interim dividend were unchanged at 2.1p and 3.2p respectively. The UK outlook remains uncertain.

Watchdog nearer to formation

BY LIZ DOLAN

THE establishment of an umbrella body to regulate the marketing of financial products came one step nearer yesterday with the publication of a consultative document.

Sir Brian Hayes, chairman of the Personal Investment Authority formation committee, said consumers would benefit from the replacement of several regulatory authorities by one organisation.

The body is likely to assume responsibility for the areas at present controlled by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation and the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Organisation. Some members of the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation are expected to join.

But the real question is whether the financial services arms of the banks and building societies will join the PIA. Both groups have shown little enthusiasm.

As likely to be with us permanently and to face up to our business accordingly," he says.

"I think we've no reason to assume that we're in recession forever — but we've no reason to believe that it will go back to where it was."

As a result of the rights issue, borrowings at August 1 were £19.8 million and gearing just 5.7 per cent (48.6 per cent). Three new supermarkets were opened in the first half, and the rest of the financial year would see another three openings and the completion of extension work on two other stores. Mr Morrison said the expansion programme could be financed out of retained funds and existing borrowing facilities.

He said a slight improvement in gross margins was due entirely to a favourable change in the sales mix. Like-for-like margins had shown a slight decrease, a trend that was likely to continue.

Food group thrives but issues warning

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A WARNING that the effects of the recession could stay with the food retailing industry permanently has accompanied a resilient trading performance from William Morrison Supermarkets, the Yorkshire chain.

A £4.5 million interest swing, to earnings of £1.8 million, after last year's £98 million rights issue helped pre-tax profits to rise from £27.0 million to £36.2 million in the 26 weeks to August 1, and the interim dividend is effectively raised by 20 per cent to 0.16p.

Supermarket takings, inclusive of VAT, were up 17.1 per cent, a 4.3 per cent rise coming from existing units and the balance from new stores. But Ken Morrison, the chairman and chief executive, says that because of the low level of food price inflation, the rate of increase in staff costs was exceeding sales growth.

"I believe it is prudent to regard the present conditions

as likely to be with us permanently and to face up to our business accordingly," he says.

"I think we've no reason to assume that we're in recession forever — but we've no reason to believe that it will go back to where it was."

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Havelock seeks £2.9m via share placing

HAVELOCK Europa, the shopfitting group, is raising £2.97 million net via a placing of 10 million shares at 31p a share. The cash will help repair its financial position, and Sir Lewis Robertson, who is retiring as chairman at the end of the year, says he will be leaving a group with a solid balance sheet and a sound management.

New contracts have been won in a difficult market, and key customers, including Marks and Spencer and Boots, have continued their considerable interior fitting programmes. Havelock has been hurt by the recession and reports a reduced pre-tax loss of £1.6 million (£2.18 million loss) for the six months to end-June. The 1992 interim dividend has been passed. The second half is likely to be stronger than the first half, though the group gave warning that the continuing difficult trading climate will hit trading results.

Inchcape drives in Japan

INCHCAPE, the international trading group, is setting up a joint venture with Peugeot to import and distribute Peugeot cars and spare parts in Japan. Together they will invest £9.4 million in Peugeot Japan, the present importer of Peugeot cars into the country. The restructured Peugeot Japan will also sell the new model, due to be unveiled in Europe next year. Peugeot has sold more than 25,000 vehicles in Japan since 1987. Peugeot Japan is 67 per cent owned by Automobiles Peugeot, 11.5 per cent each by Suzuki Motor Corp and Rover Japan, a subsidiary of British Aerospace, and 5 per cent each by Nissho Iwai and Seibu Motor Sales Co.

Berkertex wins suitor

WILLIAM Baird, the textiles group that owns Brides International and Windsor, has bought Berkertex, the bridal wear group, from the receivers for an undisclosed sum. The deal, which includes Genesis, a leisure business, is expected to secure the future of most of the 1,200 jobs under threat since receivers were appointed three weeks ago. The Berkertex flagship store in Bond Street, London, and its Nottingham store would continue operating, as would most of the group's department store outlets, said Christopher Morris and Roger Powdrill, joint administrative receivers from Touche Ross, the accountant. Berkertex operated 350 retail outlets in the UK and 26 in Spain.

Headline sales surge

HEADLINE Book Publishing, the venture capital-backed start-up that claims to be Britain's fifth most profitable consumer book publisher, has increased interim pre-tax profits by 60 per cent to £604,000 for the first half of the year. Tim Hey Hutchinson, the managing director, said the surge in profits was the result of a 20 per cent rise in sales in a generally flat book market combined with tight control of overheads. The pre-tax profit margin rose from 8.5 per cent to 11.4 per cent. Publishing sales in July and August were 34 per cent ahead of the same period last year. The interim dividend has been trebled from 0.5p to 1.5p, reducing cover to 2.2 times. Earnings per share were up 11 per cent to 3.6p.

Anglia lifts earnings

ANGLIA Television, winner of the Channel 3 franchise, raised pre-tax profits to £4.8 million in the half year to June 30, compared with £3 million in the six months to April 30 last year. The gain was almost entirely due to a sharp fall in the size of the Exchequer levy on advertising revenue, saving Anglia £2.7 million. The interim dividend is held at 2.86p. Turnover was little changed (£3.5 million (£52.2 million) and operating profits fell to £4.3 million (£5.4 million). Earnings per share were 7.04p (4.35p). Sir Peter Gibbons, chairman, said Anglia's 600-strong workforce had agreed to an 18-month pay freeze. Expenditure on own productions increased from £7.8 million to £12 million.

Whitecroft warning

WHITECROFT, the building products, lighting and textiles group, has given warning of an expected £1 million pre-tax loss for the half year to September. It is selling its window and conservatory offshoots, which are expected to make a loss of more than £1 million in the first half. The sales will result in a £4 million write-off, to be included as an extraordinary item. There will also be an extraordinary item of £23.8 million, for goodwill previously written off and included to comply with accounting convention. There will be no interim dividend.

Yule Catto advances

A STRONG performance in special chemicals enabled Yule Catto to overcome the tough trading conditions experienced by its building products division in the first half, to boost pre-tax profits from £9.9 million to £10.2 million. Earnings per share were 7.5p (7.2p) and the board is lifting the interim dividend from 2.3p to 2.5p a share. Chemicals sales and profits rose by 4 and 8 per cent respectively; with improving trends in domestic and export markets, the business is expected to maintain higher levels of profitability in the months ahead.

TEMPUS

Vickers left shell-shocked by rundown at Rolls-Royce



Stemming losses at Rolls: Sir Colin Chandler, chief executive of Vickers

INVESTORS may be forgiven in a sense of déjà vu as Vickers follows British Aerospace with a batch of job losses in a key division, wiping out the rest of the group's profits, and with a dividend shock for shareholders.

After failing to unearth a partner for Rolls-Royce Motors, Vickers has further run down capacity at Crewe. The year-end bottom-line figure will look pretty bleak after the £12.5 million exceptional cost involved. The aim is to staunch the flow of cash from the motor group by cutting break-even point to 1,400 vehicles, half the 1990 level.

Even on current sales figures, Rolls should be cash-neutral next year and breaking even by 1994.

Debt could be up to about £100 million by the end of the current year, but strip out rationalisation costs and a slowdown of about £25 million in advance payments, and the picture does not look too unhealthy.

The savagery of the cut in the interim dividend to 0.5p, demonstrating the board's determination not to see the aerospace and Cosworth divisions starved of cash, was chiefly responsible for the dismay registered by yesterday's initial 12p fall in the share price to 67p.

With the losses stemmed at Rolls, Vickers ought to be shooting for £19.3 million pre-tax in 1993, and maybe £30 million in the following year, says Sandy Morris at County NatWest. That would

reduce the 1994 prospective multiple to about 10 at last night's 78p. All the shares need to out-perform is news of a tank order from the Middle East — or, of course, bid. With all the pain now in the share price, predators may never have a better opportunity.

The company has always pursued a policy of developing greenfield sites rather

than acquiring capacity, and is currently engaged in a £40 million investment programme, building factories in Barnsley and Bradford. The new capacity will come on stream for next year as the company continues its push into continental Europe and North America.

Profits this year will be about £42 million, giving earnings of about 8p and putting the shares on a price/earnings multiple of just under 18. The shares certainly deserve the premium rating although, as Body Shop demonstrates, City devotion is no guarantee of invulnerability.

Regional newspaper interests were not as strong — trading profits edged up from £13.3 million to £13.8 million — and profits from information services and advertising periodicals were weak. But group pre-tax profits for the half year were still a respectable 20.2 per cent ahead, at £4.6 million.

Net debt is marginally down from £27.6 million level at the end of the previous year.

Recognition that United's profits downturn has been arrested pushed the shares 16p higher, to 42.5p, yesterday. On year-end profit hopes of £98 million (£85.2 million) the shares are attractive on 13.6 times earnings, backed by a 6.6 per cent yield.

Lord Stevens, the chairman, is not

THE TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1992

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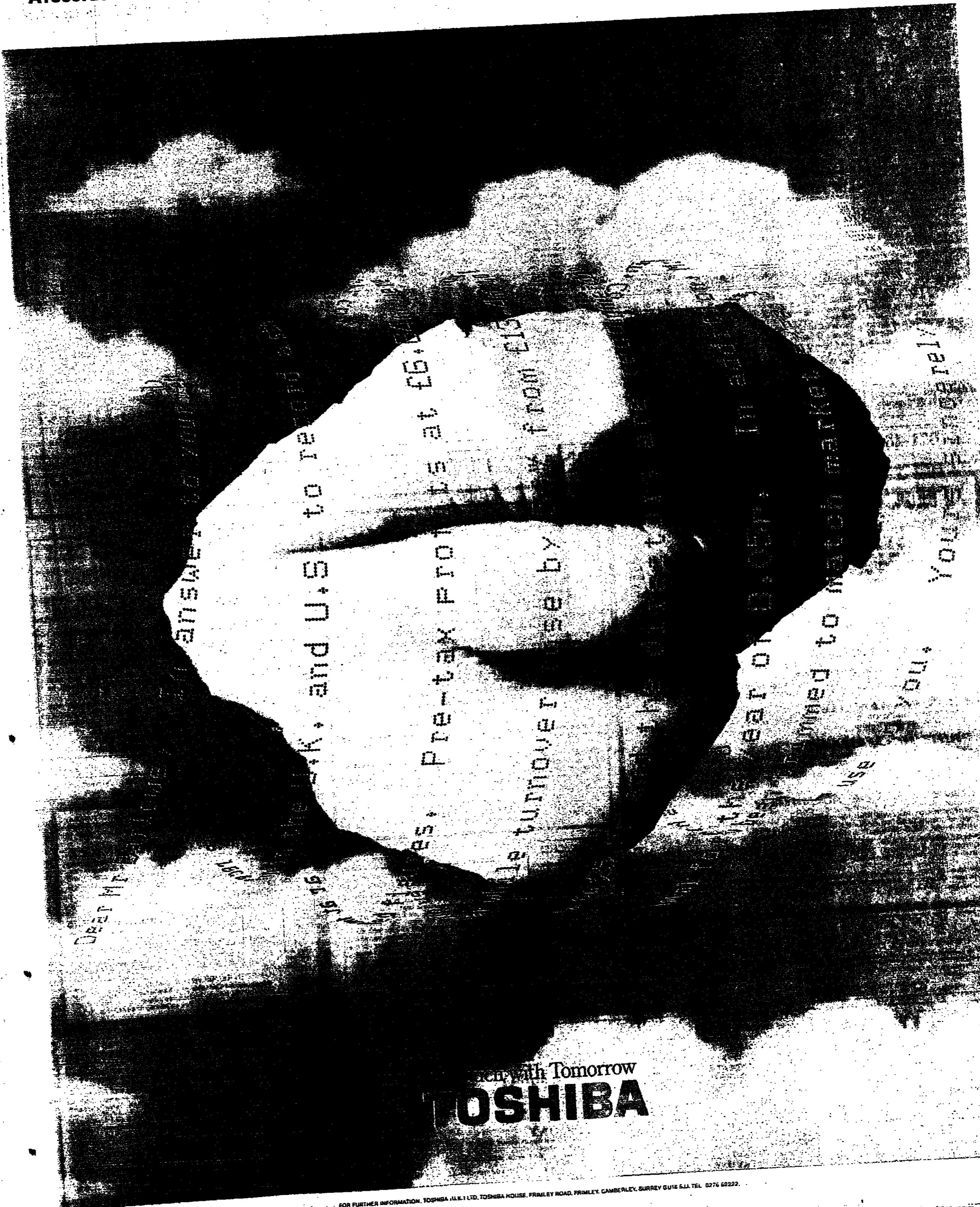
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Tokyo seeks to calm market as yen soars

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

THE shadow of the *endaka* (high yen) monster loomed over the Japanese economy yesterday as the currency went into orbit, reaching a record intra-day high against the dollar.

Soothing comments from the Bank of Japan did little to calm jittery markets and Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, was prevailed upon to deliver a few words to dispel growing fears that the sudden appreciation of the yen, which has risen by about Y6 against the dollar in the past week, would wreak all manner of damage on an already weakened economy.

The yen rose during the morning to Y119.83 against the dollar, well ahead of its previous high of Y120.45 in January 1988.

"This would be a problem if the yen's gain stemmed from speculative buying or if the fluctuations were volatile, but that is not the case," Mr Miyazawa said. There would be no need for an immediate dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan, he added.

The finance ministry remained calm throughout the day, maintaining that the yen's sudden appreciation was a temporary phenomenon caused by currency turmoil in Europe, which has turned the yen into a temporary safe-haven currency. "We are remaining very calm in the international division because there is a general feeling that this is not our business. The cause is Germany," said Shigeaki Morinobu, a director in the ministry's international finance bureau.

The yen closed in Tokyo at Y120.25 against the dollar, up Y2.42, amid rising market expectations of a further cut in interest rates. Bank of Japan officials denied the necessity for such a move and economists agreed that the strength of the stock market, which gained 327.23 points to close at 18,609.95 yesterday in relatively strong trading, indicated that the yen's appreciation is a temporary phenomenon.

Bears maul anxious Allied-Lyons

ALLIED-LYONS, the food and drinks group, spent an anxious session after the shares were mauled at the hands of stock market bears. The price touched 614p in early trading before recovering to close 9p down on the day at 638p as word went around the marketplace that the group was about to issue a profits warning. This was

to £720 million. Hoare claimed that its numbers for Allied were a bit on the high side and vigorously denied claims that it had been responsible for the bear raid. Earlier this week, Hoare lifted its forecast for Grand Metropolitan, having been long-term bears of the stock. GrandMet was unchanged at 455p. Elsewhere in the drinks

sector, Bass lost 7p to 580p after James Capel, the broker, urged its clients to switch to Whitbread A, another 18p firmer at 465p. Devenish, also advanced 5p to

BT resisted the market trend to end the day unchanged at 359p. County NatWest has taken the shares off its buy list and has downgraded its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year to £100 million from £2.7 billion and for 1993 by £120 million to £2.28 billion. BT remains a defensive play, but is unlikely to outperform.

equivalent to 500,000 shares. There was also talk of a line of 1.8 million shares overhanging the market. Hoare Govett, the broker, then decided to cut its profit forecast for the current year by £30 million to £635 million and for 1993 by a similar sum

246p as speculation revived that Boddingtons, unchanged at 178p, would make another attempt to gain control of the company.

Meanwhile, the equity market surged through 2,600 in late trading after the prime minister indicated that there

were no immediate plans for sterling to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism. Prices were squeezed higher in thin trading, with the FT-SE 100 index closing at its best of the day, 40.7 points up to 2,621.2. Turnover was split to 671 million shares compared with the previous day's 735 million.

Government securities sported gains of £4, cheered by the decision to allow the pound to continue floating. Reuters climbed 30p to 12,48, helped by a profit upgrading by Merrill Lynch, the American securities house. United Newspapers responded to better than expected figures with a rise of 14p to 425p.

British Aerospace managed to claw back some of this week's losses with a rise of 13p to 126p.

The price fell 86p on Wednesday after the group announced first-half losses of £129 million, provisions of more than £700 million and

the closure of its Hatfield, Hertfordshire, production facilities with the loss of 3,000 jobs.

The news from BAe sent shock waves through the rest of the aerospace industry and Smiths Industries lost another 4p to 304p, while Rolls-Royce recovered from an early fall to finish all-square at 1364p. T&N rallied 1p to 152p and Lucas Industries 6p to 96p. Vickers advanced 5p to 84p after cutting 950 jobs at the Rolls-Royce Motors' plant in Crewe, Cheshire.

Amber, the troubled discount retailer, firmed 1p to 353p despite seeing pre-tax profits last year slide from £14.1 million to £7.52 million, and earnings almost halved.

Racial Electronics rose 21p to 691p, with the new shares hardening 3p to 145p before the extraordinary general meeting on October 2, which is being held to approve the demerger of Chubb. In the grey market, the shares in Chubb were changing hands at 202p.

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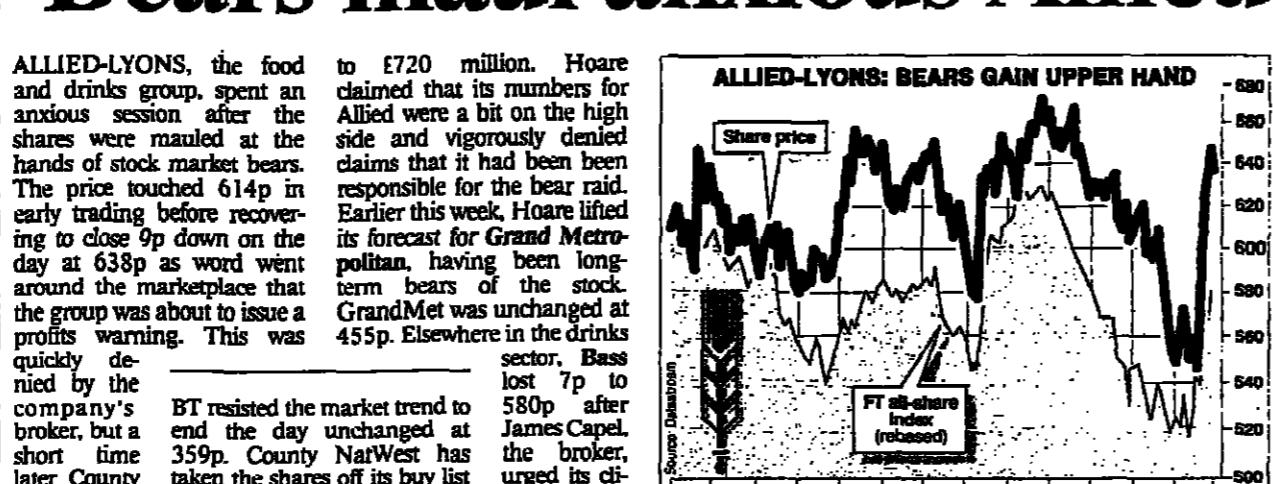
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COMMENT

Sir Bryan keeps up the pressure

Sir Bryan Carsberg, the new director general of fair trading, has launched the OFT back into its long-running battle with the life assurance industry with renewed vigour. Too much of the argument has focused on the technicalities of detailed disclosure of commissions, costs and low early surrender values, and their effects on the dwindling numbers of independent life assurance brokers. Sir Bryan has switched the argument onto reform of selling in order to avoid some of the costs and penalties. There has long been an absurd contradiction within the industry. At its heart are sober actuaries and fund managers dedicated to protecting individuals and helping them become rich slowly. At its sharp end is a selling system plagued with a get-rich-quick mentality and a force of tied agents with a turnover more than 50 per cent a year.

If only life assurance companies competed more for final consumers through value for money and less for distribution outlets via spiralling costs and commission rates. Sir Bryan argued in a speech to members of the industry yesterday, fewer people would be sold policies they could not or would not want to continue to maturity. Regulation and forced disclosure will have to start the ball rolling, but Sir Bryan offered an incentive. If competition on costs forced companies to share the burden of bad selling, they would ultimately gain as much as consumers.

Sir Bryan has yet to advise the Chancellor on the final proposals from the Securities and Investments Board, which chiefly follow the industry's line. If his ideas are anything to go by and the Chancellor backs him, the SIB will surely be back to the drawing board.

Aerospace rethink

After collapsing 86p to 113p on Wednesday, BAE shares staged a 13p recovery yesterday, suggesting that some investors are taking a cooler look at long term prospects and concluding that the worst may be over. Such a judgment must be highly speculative, for when a company such as BAE delivers nasty shocks to the wealth of its shareholders in two successive years, its investment rating takes time to repair. But there is a case for thinking that the shares may have hit bottom. The whole group is now capitalised at little more than the value of last year's £4.30 million rights issue. BAE's defence systems, the core around which chairman John Cahill wishes to reconstruct the business, are by themselves capable of making trading profits of more than £500 million. What am I bid, Lord Weinstock? GEC would have little trouble financing a credible bid.

BAE's recent history shows that it has not always been wise to accept without question the views of the management. Most if not all of the senior directors did, however, buy shares after the plunge on Wednesday, showing commitment as well as motive to get the company right at last. For Mr Cahill, there are no sacred cows and further cost savings can be expected. Is there much downside on a price earnings ratio for 1993 of around one?

A government-sponsored survey shows how the union organisation has withered during the Conservative years. Philip Bassett reports

In the political obituaries prompted by the Conservatives' dispatch of Margaret Thatcher, one achievement was universally recognised: that she had tamed the trade unions. Her reshaping of Britain's industrial relations consensus may now be taken for granted, but behind it lies an undergrowth of opinion, assertion, belief and prejudice about what really has changed in British employee relations.

Yesterday produced further definitive evidence of what has gone on, and is probably still going on. The government-sponsored Workplace Industrial Relations Survey, first carried out in 1980, is one of the few widely accepted pieces of research about how industry uses and regulates its labour. The report of the 1990 survey charts in detail a decade of bewildering changes.

Studiously neutral politically, its findings show how far the Conservative government achieved its aim of making the notoriously rigid UK labour market more flexible through a combination of economic, legal and social changes.

"So great were the changes," the survey says, "that it is not unreasonable to conclude that the traditional, distinctive 'system' of British industrial relations no longer characterised the economy as a whole." The survey is sponsored jointly by the employment department, the Acas conciliation service, the Economic and Social Research Council and the independent Policy Studies Institute. In the past, it has been used by the government to justify its labour market changes, and the latest will be no different.

Ministers will, in general, be delighted by its findings, particularly as the scope of the survey makes it so authoritative. It involved more than 4,700 interviews with more than 2,000 representative employers in the private and public sectors.

The survey confirms how savagely the trade unions have been hit. Union density — the proportion of employees who are members — fell from 58 per cent in 1984 to 48 per cent in 1990. Even in the public sector, which buttresses UK union



'I'm alright, Jack': Peter Sellers characterising an intransigent shop steward in the 1959 film

membership, density is down from 80 to 72 per cent. In private-sector manufacturing it has dropped from 56 to 48 per cent, while in private services the level is even lower — down from 30 to 27 per cent.

Non-unionism — having no unions at all in the workplace — is sharply up. Now, 36 per cent of establishments have no unions, compared with 27 per cent in 1984. For white-collar employees, the figure is even higher, at 49 per cent. The survey says that while management hostility is apparent in about a third of non-union workplaces, disengagement among employees with unions might be a greater factor.

The decline of union strength, and the subsequent reduction in the number of employers recognising unions for bargaining purposes, means that only a minority of employees are covered by collective bargaining. Among those working for large establishments — 25 employees and over — covered by the survey, about 8.4 million out of a total

of 15.3 million, or 54 per cent, still have their pay settled collectively by traditional bargaining. But as the 6.6 million employees, mainly in small workplaces, who were not covered by the survey are much less likely to be covered by collective bargaining, the proportion of workers whose pay and conditions are settled in this way may be less than 40 per cent.

Conservative legislation has brought about the virtual disappearance of closed shops — arrangements under which people's employment depended on their being union members. In mid-1984, between 3.5 million and 3.7 million employees were covered by closed shops. The 1990 survey estimates the number at a maximum of half a million, and the researchers believe changes in the law that came into effect after the 1990 study mean the next workplace survey will mark the complete end of the closed shop.

Across much of British industry, strikes are largely a thing of the past. Total stoppages, and non-strike action such as overtime bans, have fallen by more than half, though ministers will be less comfortable that strikes are more likely now to be supported by picketing than they were in 1984, the year of the miners' strike. Also, the level of secondary industrial action — workers not directly involved in a strike taking action in support — though low, affecting 4 per cent of workplaces, is no lower than it was eight years ago.

The government will also be unhappy that the much-vaunted move to pay bargaining at individual plant level has been largely illusory, and that the break-up of pay setting at national level has only moved the process a few down as companies.

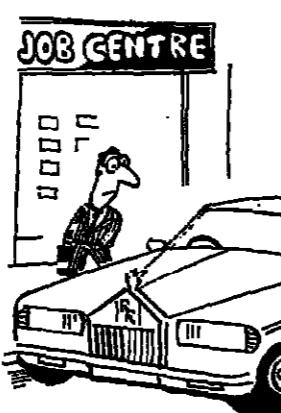
These and similar findings ripple through into all aspects of the relations between employers and employees, from the continuing decline of the shop steward who so characterised industrial relations in the fifties, sixties and seventies —

THE TIMES CITY DIARY**Buerk makes waves**

MICHAEL Buerk, the TV newsreader who presented yesterday's Carlton-sponsored Venture of the Year award at the Savoy, confessed himself torn between giving away the "management buyout award" or the "sellout award" when he came to presenting a prize to David Mace, managing director of Sea Life Centres. Mace has spent 13 years building up the group, Britain's leading developer of seaside walk-through aquaria, and after a management buyout from Norsk Hydro in 1987 had sold the company just the previous day to Vardon, the London Dungeons group. That deal was worth £9.9 million — compared with the £2 million buyout price — and Mace himself personally picked up just short of £1 million from the proceeds. Unashamed by Buerk's comments, however, Mace managed to look as delighted as the other six venture capitalist winners as he walked away from the ceremony clutching his Carlton boardroom clock and watch. The overall winners, incidentally, were Adrian Breger and Jamie Gibson of Breger Gibson, Welsh disposables nappy manufacturers.

Smith on Sunday

TERRY Smith, the former head of research at UBS Phillips & Drew and author of the controversial *Accounting for Growth*, may have found a new home for his talents. He says he has been in talks that may lead him to turn City columnist, taking over the slot now occupied by actor Adam Faith on the *Mail on Sunday*. "I have spoken to them but I am still deciding," Smith says. Faith's relationship with the newspaper has been every bit as colourful as the one between Smith and his old employer — the paper was forced to pull his "Faith in a Million" get-rich scheme for readers earlier this year after the Securities and Investments Board intervened. The paper seems

**fore Eurotunnel takes its first paying passenger. Sizewell is due on stream in 1994.****Ecu winner**

THE ecu may not be everyone's favourite currency right now but one person who remains an enthusiastic supporter is Bill Holmes, managing director of the European half of California Software. The company specialises in adapting IBM mid-range computers for personal computers and for two years has been pricing its products in ecus. Holmes says that after initial resistance, so popular has the policy been that he has now persuaded even non-EC countries such as Sweden and Norway to pay him in ecus. "People can price the products in local currencies and they are totally protected from currency changes. They just don't realise how easy it is," Holmes raves. While his main aim is to neutralise currency gains, he says the exceptional fall of the pound through its exchange rate-mechanism floor last week resulted in large currency gains for his company.

Bell rings

AFTER seven-and-a-half years with Vickers, publicity director Terence Collis, 38, could have wished for a better week to take his leave. Today is his last day before becoming managing director of Sir Tim Bell's financial PR firm, Lowe Bell, and, as Collis says, yesterday's news "was the most difficult set of announcements I've ever had to deliver". Collis says the company particularly wanted him to stay until the interim was out. "It is difficult going out at a time when there is tremendous pressure on the company but Vickers has been good to me and I was only too happy to stay." For Collis, unlike some of Vickers hundreds of ex-employees, better things are in store. He joins Lowe Bell after a week's holiday and is understood to have been offered a salary more than double what he earned at Vickers.

DEBRA ISAAC

Why company pension schemes should not be allowed to die out

From Mr Roger Washwood

Sir, David Blake's article "It's out to take our pensions out of the hands of employers" (Business Comment, September 18) raises some interesting

suggestions for changes in pension provision. Doubtless, many of them will be thoroughly examined during the debate which will be engendered by the publication recently of the consultative document of the Pension Law Review Committee.

Mr Blake sets out to describe his ideal design for a pension scheme. Unfortunately, he does not fully answer the question "ideal for whom?" For employees, for employers?

Mr Blake asks "what would we think if, when we started working for a company, the employer insisted that we deposit all our savings with the company?" In fact, this is a question employees no longer need to answer. For slightly more than four years employers have not been able to require their employees to join a company-sponsored scheme, or to stay in one.

Despite a multitude of competitive personal pension schemes on offer as alternatives, millions of people have either chosen to stay in an employer-sponsored scheme, or to join one.

Whether the scheme is money purchase or final salary, people are members of company-sponsored schemes because they want to be. So why is it in their interest that these schemes, as Mr Blake puts it, be allowed to die a natural death?

There is no reason in principle why Mr Blake's ideal pension scheme should not be available to anybody who wants to buy it, but we fear that the underlying, and unacceptable, message in his article is that the ideal market for his ideal product is one from which all company-sponsored competition has been conveniently removed.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER WESTWOOD,
President,
The Society of
Pension Consultants,
Lodgegate House,
Lodgegate Circus,
EC4.

Benefits of devaluation for British tourism

From Mr J.A. Bodleander

Sir, In 1985, when the dollar and the pound virtually reached parity (at its lowest point, it was about \$1.04 to £1) an American staying in London at an hotel charging £120 per night would have paid £120. Until last week, with the pound worth virtually double the dollar, the same American would have had to pay \$240 for the same room.

In fact, the room may now be available for £80 (that is, a drop of one third in money terms and much more in real terms after inflation) which would have cost him, prior to devaluation, \$160, or \$40 more.

The example illustrates the extent to which the British hotel industry is suffering from both the effects of the recession and a high value pound. It also shows how much American visitors suffered at the height of sterling's strength — and the USA is the key recovery market.

Government policies until

negative influence on the tourism industry, on the employment it creates (over 1.5 million) and on the foreign exchange it earns (£7.8 billion in 1990).

It is little surprise therefore that the industry should welcome the recent devaluation of sterling against most major countries — not only in America, but Germany and Japan and other important markets.

Devaluation will make Britain infinitely more attractive as a tourist destination. It will also make outbound tourism from the UK more expensive which will have the added benefit of encouraging more UK residents to stay at home next year.

For the tourism industry at least, recovery could begin in 1993 and buoyant trading conditions could return in 1994 and 1995.

Yours faithfully,
J.A. BODLEANDER,
Chairman,
Horwath Consulting,
8 Baker Street,
WI.

Trade figures will be published

From Mr W. McLennan

Sir, Your Business Comment column on 23 September said that "meaningful trade figures will not be published for at least six months and probably nearer a year after the single European market comes into force" at the beginning of 1993. This is incorrect.

The statistics of trade with non-EC countries will be published as normal. For EC countries, there will be some delay while a new system, Infrastat, is introduced. However, we expect to publish, as usual, in mid-June, aggregate statistics of visible trade for the first quarter of 1993 as part of the regular Balance of Payments accounts, and monthly figures soon thereafter.

The decision not to provide a full link between the old and new systems was not taken lightly. Because the present system cannot continue after 31 December, any link would have been very costly to businesses, requiring several thousand to report two sets of information on the same trade.

This problem is not confined to the UK; all other EC countries will be in a similar position.

Yours faithfully,
W. MCLENNAN, Director,
Central Statistical Office,
Great George Street, SW1.

The way towards full employment

From Brigadier Paxton-Brown

Sir, I would have expected the new chief executive at such a British institution as Lloyd's with its proud 300-year history (picture — Business Times, September 14) to ride a British-made bike — but NO.

Sadly, Mr Peter Middleton

has chosen foreign — not even a BMW to keep it in the Common Market so to speak — but is pictured astride his new 800 c.c. Japanese Suzuki, aptly-named "Intruder". At

least he will be anonymous with his helmet on.

What's the betting Mr Middleton has a Lexus or Mercedes at home, instead of buying Bentley, Jaguar or other British marque, all of which are in urgent need of a boost in these hard times?

Yours faithfully,
G.A. PAXTON-BROWN,
The Garth, Northallerton,
North Yorkshire.

Where has patriotism gone? Clearly, it is not strong at Lloyd's — but this is perhaps the least of their worries!

Nowadays we rarely stop to think that for every foreign car or upmarket bike we buy, we are adding to the balance of payments deficit, and exchanging a job in Birmingham or Dagenham for two jobs in Nagasaki. We cannot afford for this situation to continue in the longer term.

BUYING BRITISH in Britain would solve our lamentable economic plight and currency problems, and bring us back towards full employment.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhuddlan,
Castell Morris,
Haverfordwest.

Investigation into House of Fraser takeover

From Mr David Green

Sir, You report the takeover panel has censured the Al-Fayed brothers for misleading the market when they bid for House of Fraser and Harrods.

You also quote the finding of trade department inspectors that the Al-Fayed's "dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources" in the course of that £573 million takeover.

But so far as I am aware

every penny of that £573 mil-

National Westminster Bank Mortgage Rate

With effect from 24 September 1992 for borrowers whose applications have been signed but whose mortgages have not been drawn, and from 01 November 1992 for existing borrowers, the NatWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be decreased from 10.69% to 9.99%. This change will be reflected in existing borrowers' repayments from 05 or 22 November 1992.

National Westminster Home Loans Limited

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check the age of the day's share price movements to make your outright or share of the daily price money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Recorded Ind.	Industrial	
2	Welsh Water	Water	
3	Woolley	Industrial	
4	Jardine Math	Industrial	
5	Securicor	Industrial	
6	Midlands Elec	Electronics	
7	Lucas	Motor/Air	
8	Harrison Crisfield	Industrial	
9	Shell	Oil/Gas	
10	Dulcan	Foods	
11	Warburg SG	Banks/Div	
12	Town Centre	Properties	
13	Imiques Vert	Drapery/Stns	
14	Prudential	Insurance	
15	Reliance Sec	Industrial	
16	Riordan	Industrial	
17	Perseusman	Building/Rds	
18	Taunton Cider	Breweries	
19	GEC	Electrical	
20	Kwik Save	Foods	
21	Severn Trent	Water	
22	Nitin Foods	Foods	
23	Delta	Electrical	
24	Epstein	Building/Rds	
25	BFT Ord	Industrial	
26	Cape	Industrial	
27	Reindeer Frozen	Foods	
28	Sox TV	Leisure	
29	Warner	Properties	
30	Hedderman Ad	Financial Trst	
31	Hughes Tec	Industrial	
32	Crookson	Industrial	
33	Rathbone Brs	Finance/Land	
34	Europower	Electrical	
35	BSB Group	Industrial	
36	Sloane Estates	Property	
37	Gr Portland	Properties	
38	Port	Hotels/Cn	
39	Kidwelly Ben	Banks/Div	
40	S & U	Finance/Land	
41	BOC	Industrial	
42	Bowes	Electrical	
43	Hillbrow	Foods	
44	Yorkshire W	Water	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Yld %

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs A McCaughan, of Maidstone, and Mr Ian Finlay, of Ealing, London W13, each receive £2,000.

RANKS, DISCOUNT, HP					
317	249	Albert	317	105	44.10%
318	105	Albion	318	105	44.10%
319	261	Amberfield	319	105	44.10%
320	105	Ames New	320	105	44.10%
321	105	Ames New	321	105	44.10%
322	174	Ames New	322	105	44.10%
323	141	Ames New	323	105	44.10%
324	170	Ames New	324	105	44.10%
325	140	Ames New	325	105	44.10%
326	125	Ames New	326	105	44.10%
327	145	Ames New	327	105	44.10%
328	145	Ames New	328	105	44.10%
329	115	Ames New	329	105	44.10%
330	115	Ames New	330	105	44.10%
331	115	Ames New	331	105	44.10%
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405	115	Ames New	405	105	44.10%
406	115	Ames New	406	105	44.10%
407	115	Ames New	407	105	44.10%
408	115	Ames New	408	105	44.10%
409	115	Ames New</td			

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT FINDINGS ON THE BLUE ARROW AFFAIR

A case of one man exercising too much power

The government yesterday published its long-awaited report into Blue Arrow. Here are extracts from the conclusions on the leading players in the affair

Peter de Savary
At the time of our appointment Mr de Savary was viewed in the media and elsewhere as having a prominent and questionable role in relation to certain of Blue Arrow's affairs, in particular the Canvey transaction. Such a perception was incorrect. Our Inquiry into Blue Arrow has not disclosed any fraud or impropriety concerning the Canvey transaction. We are satisfied it was a genuine commercial transaction and was offered in good faith by Mr de Savary.

Michael Ashcroft
Mr Ashcroft has been a close colleague of Mr Berry for many years. The extent of his influence on Mr Berry is not easy to assess. Mr Berry sought his advice on corporate matters concerning Blue Arrow over the years, including in relation to the acquisition of Manpower, although Mr Ashcroft did not render an invoice for any such advice until the LJA invoice of 9 December 1988. We were unsatisfied by the explanations received from both Mr Berry and Mr Ashcroft as to the reasons for the timing, the amount and the prompt payment of this invoice. There have also been dealings between Mr Berry and Mr Ashcroft involving Blue Arrow as set out in this Report. These include transactions concerning Miss World shares in respect of which there were, in our view, disquieting features and arrangements of which Blue Arrow was unaware, between Mr Berry and Mr Ashcroft relating to Blue Arrow shares. These arrangements concerning Blue Arrow shares were not disclosed by Mr Ashcroft in response to enquiries and Section

212 notices sent to him in the period January to June 1989. Although Mr Ashcroft had no role in the management of the Company, in his capacity as Chairman of ADT he did feature at two strategic times during the later period of Blue Arrow's history under review in this Report. First, at the time of Mr Berry's imminent removal in late December 1988/early January 1989 when ADT sent the Board two tentative offers for the Company, the second of which was conditional upon there being no change in the management. Later, when Mr Ashcroft attended the AGM in April 1989, his questions, including that relating to post balance sheet events, were intended to embarrass the then Board. Mr Ashcroft told us that he wished to convey to the new management at Blue Arrow the impression that he was "an unguided missile... that they could not pin down" and "a variable" and, as such, someone to be "taken into consideration in their dealing with Mr Berry".

Bruce Gray
Mr Gray, as Company Secretary, was responsible for ensuring that the Company complied with procedural requirements, both under the Articles of Association and under Statute, and that it complied with its obligations to The Stock Exchange. Mr Gray had prime responsibility for the irregular procedures concerning Directors' Meetings generally and was responsible for the preparation of the minutes of two Directors' Meetings dealt with in this Report which did not take place, namely, 29 November 1988 relating to the Portugal joint venture and 2 December



Breach of faith: the report finds Tony Berry guilty of serious failures in his fiduciary duty

1988 concerning the Canvey transaction... Although we do not consider Mr Gray's conduct to have been either dishonest or intentionally misleading, nonetheless, the discharge of his responsibilities as Company Secretary of a public company was, in these respects, most unsatisfactory.

Norman Tebbit
We have made no criticism of Mr Tebbit's role as a non-executive director in any of the events at Blue Arrow. He too at all times acted both responsibly and honourably

in fulfilling his duties as a non-executive director and in his endeavours to resolve what he viewed as the problems at Blue Arrow.

Mitchell Fromstein
When Manpower was taken over by Blue Arrow in September 1987, Mr Fromstein lost what has been described as "his baby". It was a company which he had built up which had grown rapidly under his leadership.

We have not criticised Mr Fromstein's conduct as a director of Blue Arrow in any respect either in

the period prior to his dismissal in December 1988, when he was Chief Executive Officer of Manpower, or following his return in January 1989, when he became Chief Executive of Blue Arrow.

David Atkins
Mr Atkins had a close friendship with Mr Berry. He tried at times to act as a restraining influence on Mr Berry. However, he does not seem to have played any significant role in any of the matters dealt with in this Report, except that we consider that, as an executive

director, he bears a degree of responsibility for the continuing irregular procedures concerning meetings of executive directors referred to as Directors' Meetings.

Nicholas Fazakerley

Mr Fazakerley has been criticised in two respects in this Report, namely, in his allowing the sundry debtors account relating to Mr Berry's development in Portugal to remain unresolved for so long without raising his concerns with other directors of the Board and, like Mr Atkins, for his share of responsibility as an executive director in relation to the continuing irregular procedures for Directors' Meetings... We recognise Mr Fazakerley did try to restrain some of Mr Berry's actions.

Antony Berry
Blue Arrow and Mr Berry came to be regarded in people's minds as synonymous. He had built up Blue Arrow from a small private company into a very large public company... The acquisition of Manpower, however, put the Company into a different league.

Mr Berry
In addition, Mr Berry paid insufficient regard to the need for compliance with his statutory obligations as a director and with regulatory matters concerning the Company.

The effects of the Manpower takeover became too much for Mr Berry to cope with

pany... In reality the environment that existed at the time at Blue Arrow enabled Mr Berry, as both Chairman and Chief Executive, to exercise too much power.

There is, however, a separate and more serious category of conduct on the part of Mr Berry which we have addressed in this Report. Such conduct, in our view, amounted to breaches of Mr Berry's fiduciary duty to Blue Arrow, and is summarised below:

- Deliberately making two misleading statements to the Board concerning the Canvey transaction.
- Concluding the Canvey transaction despite the absence of Board approval and without authority.
- Deliberately omitting to inform the Board about the revision to the BAC shareholders' agreement.
- Not bringing to the Board transactions in which he had an actual or possible conflict of interest and duty.

In addition, Mr Berry paid insufficient regard to the need for compliance with his statutory obligations as a director and with regulatory matters concerning the Company.

To an extent Mr Berry became a victim of circumstances. The consequences of the Manpower takeover became too much for him to cope with. He received considerable media attention. He became subject to a build up of pressures, both corporate and personal, following the substantial fall in the share price and its failure to rally, brought about largely by matters outside his control, namely the stock market crash and the County NatWest shareholding.

While the above can explain, in part, Mr Berry's actions, it does not excuse them. He was the Chairman and Chief Executive of a major public company and, in both roles, had onerous duties and responsibilities. In this Report we have criticised, in varying degrees of severity, acts and omissions on the part of Mr Berry. Such conduct was clearly not acceptable for someone in a position of authority in a public company.

To make PCs at these prices some companies drop features. HP add more.



At Hewlett-Packard we have this odd policy. In simple terms it means every new model must have a higher specification and lower price tag than the last one.

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First, they came up with some of the fastest PCs on the market. (We had them independently tested.) Most people would be happy with that. Our designers aren't most people.

They insisted on adding more security features, a flicker free screen and silent fan.

Then they put the set up features in ROM and built in a diagnostic programme to make them even easier to use.

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PACKARD**

INFOTECH TIMES

Doubts cloud new TV picture

Digital television is to be launched soon. But there are problems, reports Barry Fox

The world of television and video is moving inexorably from the analogue to the digital domain. The question is not whether the change will affect viewers, but how and when.

There are two strands to the story. One involves high-definition television of far better quality than anything yet seen in the home; the other involves "conventional" television with quality similar to today's.

All present-day television transmissions are analogue, and most use the widely adopted system known as PAL. The home video cassette recorders that tape them are also analogue. The Eureka project HD-MAC, Europe's high-definition television system, is analogue, as is the D2-MAC satellite system on which it builds. Technically, HD-MAC is on target for commercial launch in 1994 or 1995, but its prospects look increasingly bleak.

Of the three European companies most heavily committed to the Eureka HD-MAC project, Thomson and Philips are working on a digital HDTV system for use in the United States. Both companies now appear to be preparing for a policy turnaround at the end of the year, if the European Commission votes not to

spend about £600 million on subsidising HD-MAC. The vote will be taken at EC Council meetings in November and December. Even if ministers approve the spending, it can only help the production of HDTV programmes for transmission in any format.

There can be no hope now of the full-scale switch by broadcasters from PAL to D2-MAC transmission, which is needed to provide Eureka's evolutionary upgrade from D2-MAC to HD-MAC.

The satellite broadcasters are using PAL instead of D2-MAC because the EC's 1986 directive, which was

One group is developing a high definition system for much less

Wary about claims being made for the likely growth of high-definition television: John Forrest of National Transcommunications

supposed to make them use MAC, included a glaring loophole that was never plugged. This allowed the use of PAL from satellites — notably Luxembourg's Astra — which work at lower power and lower frequency than those covered by the directive.

If HD-MAC must be written off as an opportunity lost to Europe by the EC's 1986 directive, the only logical step will be for Europe to look further ahead and plan for an all-digital and high-definition television future.

Telling signs could be noticed at the International Broadcasting Convention in Amsterdam in July. Engineering opinion was that analogue HD-MAC had missed its chance and that the only sensible way forward was with an all-digital, high-definition system in the second half of the 1990s.

A group of Scandinavian researchers demonstrated a working all-digital high-definition system called Divine, which the group is develop-

ing for a fraction of the money spent on HD-MAC. At the same time, engineers demonstrated technology developed by Britain's National Transcommunications under contract from the Independent Television Commission. This allows one of today's terrestrial television channels to carry either one all-digital HDTV programme, or at least four all-digital television programmes of similar quality to an analogue PAL programme.

These transmissions can even be slotted into gaps in the UHF band that exist between today's analogue programmes, to create room for up to 20 new digital services, which could be run in parallel with existing analogue services. However, John Forrest, the chief executive of National Transcommunications, is wary of predictions made for the growth of high-definition television.

"It is very impressive, but I cannot see the domestic market for it being very large until flat-screen, on-the-wall technology makes the sets acceptable to most people," he says.

"My biggest personal worry is the pressure to push the consumer into purchases of new technology before

the question of programme services has been adequately considered. Few people buy equipment for its marvellous technology. They buy a service, for programmes or information, to bring them fun and relaxation."

When digital television arrives, there will be an immediate need for digital video recorders. This will play a clever new trick, recording all the digital code from one broadcast channel to unravel later. The code will represent either one HDTV programme or a clutch of conventionally transmitted programmes.

Afterwards, the viewer will be able to decode and play back chosen programmes. Some of these may be scrambled, and viewed only by subscription or pay-per-view debiting.

The already advanced technology for digital video recorders is moving fast because the broadcasting industry is tearing itself apart in a battle to create a new standard for professional digital video recording.

The battle is already leading to lower costs and is encouraging the rival manufacturers to look at every available way of simplifying the technology. The work now being done on professional systems will inevitably spin off into the domestic market during the second half of the decade.

The most significant innovation is the development of compression systems, which reduce the number of digital bits that have to be recorded on to the tape.

Fewer bits mean longer recording times, and simplify and cheapen the recorder mechanism. The trick is to reduce the number of bits without sacrificing picture quality or facilities such as freeze-frame and fast search. These problems have already been solved for professional digital video. The next step is to bring the price down to consumer levels. This should have been done by the time broadcasters start transmitting digital and high-definition programmes.

Afterwards, the viewer will be able to decode and play back chosen programmes. Some of these may be scrambled, and viewed only by subscription or pay-per-view debiting.

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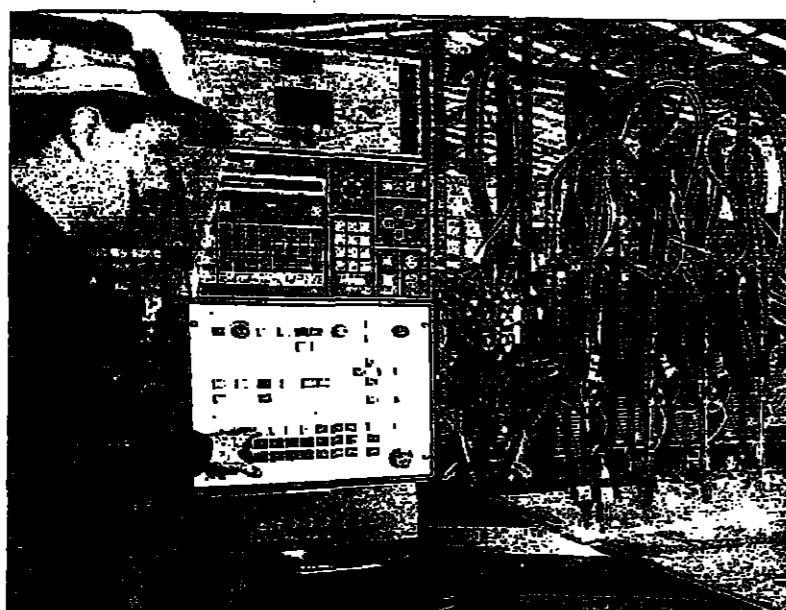
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Sean Hallahan finds computers have automated offices more than shopfloors



An operator, above, uses computer-controlled cutting equipment and, right, a quality controller checks a car using a talking fault-finding system



The unmanned factory of the future, like the paperless office, was one of those pipe dreams during the 1980s computer enthusiasm. The vision was of lines of computer-controlled robots assembling components with the minimum of human intervention. Automation would bring an end to repetitive jobs, more leisure time and a shorter, more flexible working week.

Something of the flavour of this visionary idyll is captured in *The Wired Society*, by James Martin, one of the computer industry's most influential observers, published in 1978.

Mr Martin wrote: "Boring jobs can be done by computers communicating with one another on data networks. Factories can be largely automated, each machine tool containing a microprocessor, and the overall operations being controlled from telecommunications nerve centres."

In practice, information technology, where applied in factories, has often done more in automating paperwork than the production line.

Some manufacturing departments have been heavily computerised for years. At the start of the manufacturing process, drawing offices may use PCs and workstations for computer-aided design, and computer-controlled automated warehouses can be used to speed the distribution process. Walkers Crisps, for example,

Robot go-slow in the factory

has just completed an automated warehouse, which will handle about 1.5 billion packets of crisps and snacks every year. The process from the end of the production line to the picking lanes, where the goods are made ready for loading on to vehicles, is carried out without human intervention.

From five production lines, carts of crisps and snacks are collected by shuttle cars, which are basically wagons on rails, and carried by conveyor belts and cranes to a racking system all under the control of a computer system. From these racks, goods are sent automatically to 174 gravity-fed picking lanes, each one with a capacity to hold five pallets. Every lane is replenished when the number of pallets drops to three.

The computer system, which controls cranes, shuttles and conveyors, is linked to a minicomputer, which handles order processing and other administrative func-

tions, updated automatically as stock levels change.

The company will not put a figure on the cost of the system, saying only that it runs into millions of pounds. A similar system for the South Western Electricity Board cost about £3.5 million.

Clearly such systems are beyond the reach of all except the largest companies, although the cost of the comput-

The huge investments of the 1980s are not being matched now'

ers themselves is continually falling, and the machines are processing information faster and have greater storage.

Nigel Parry, a marketing executive with Digitron, believes many smaller companies can implement automated warehouse and distribution systems using cheap PCs. "The average PC on a desk today has more power

than the original large computers installed to run automated warehouses 25 years ago," he says.

On the production line itself, however, robotics has generally not taken off as predicted. The main emphasis of computers in manufacturing has been the scheduling and organisation of materials through just-in-time software or materials requirements planning (MRP) software. MRP systems have come under heavy criticism for failing to deliver what they promised, and almost as much attention is being paid to rectifying failures on systems already installed as to selling new systems.

The leading users of just-in-time systems are in the motor industry, where a large number of different parts are needed to assemble different versions of every model. "Just-in-time works well in the car industry, because the big car companies have got such enormous clout with their

suppliers," says Tony Hoare, ICL's manufacturing operations manager.

Computer-numerically-controlled machines are also heavily used in the engineering and process industries. However, prospects for a regeneration of British industry by applying computers to the factory floor are not rosy.

The huge investments of the 1980s are not being matched now," says Mick Lacey, the managing director for commerce and industry with the software company Sema, which is running a multi-million-pound process control project for British Nuclear Fuels.

Mick Lacey argues that there is another factor in the poor take-up of computer-based manufacturing systems: disillusionment with the promises of the computer industry.

One industrial sector that has successfully incorporated computers into its production system is computer manufacturing itself. Companies such as ICL and IBM have fully automated assembly plants. Of course, they have the advantage of not having to buy the hardware and software, and have a ready pool of skilled staff to implement and maintain the machines.

Where computers have been heavily employed in the manufacturing sector, they have usually improved productivity and reduced costs, but the necessary investment is high, the tasks are complex and – as Mr Hoare at ICL points out – implementation requires big changes in working practices.

Perfect designs come on a plate

Winning ideas from computers are saving time and money

facturing process, with the objective of getting products to the market sooner, better and cheaper," Mr Ellis says.

Various mechanical attributes of complex parts, such as weight and centre of gravity, can be calculated, so that the way they will behave can be accurately predicted.

The amount of material consumed can be estimated, too, for better cost control, and parts schedules can be generated automatically.

The buzzword in the indus-

link them into others," says Neil McLeod, of Intergraph, which supplied the system at Hotpoint. "Once you have done that, you can go full circle and analyse the design before making prototypes."

But for all the computers' labour-saving, Mr Ellis believes that one of the biggest payoffs for industry is the changes in the ways human beings work together.

"We are establishing an open approach to design, working in small project teams that involve all aspects of manufacturing at the early stages," he says. "Rather than design engineers drawing up a model and passing it to the production engineers, who send it back saying, 'You can't do that,' everyone is involved from the start."

At the other end of the scale, companies that would never have considered abandoning pencil and paper a few years ago are buying computer design systems, attracted by the amazingly low prices of PC software. The basic version of AutoCAD, the workhorse of the industry, now costs about £150.

John Goodman, the AutoCAD product manager at Autodesk, of Guildford, says: "Users want to share project files, dip into central files of drawings and use databases. The ultimate aim must be to enable all those involved in making a product to navigate through a company's databases for the information they need."

• The Computers in Manufacturing show will take place at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from next Tuesday until Thursday.



Cleaning up: Hotpoint's David Ellis

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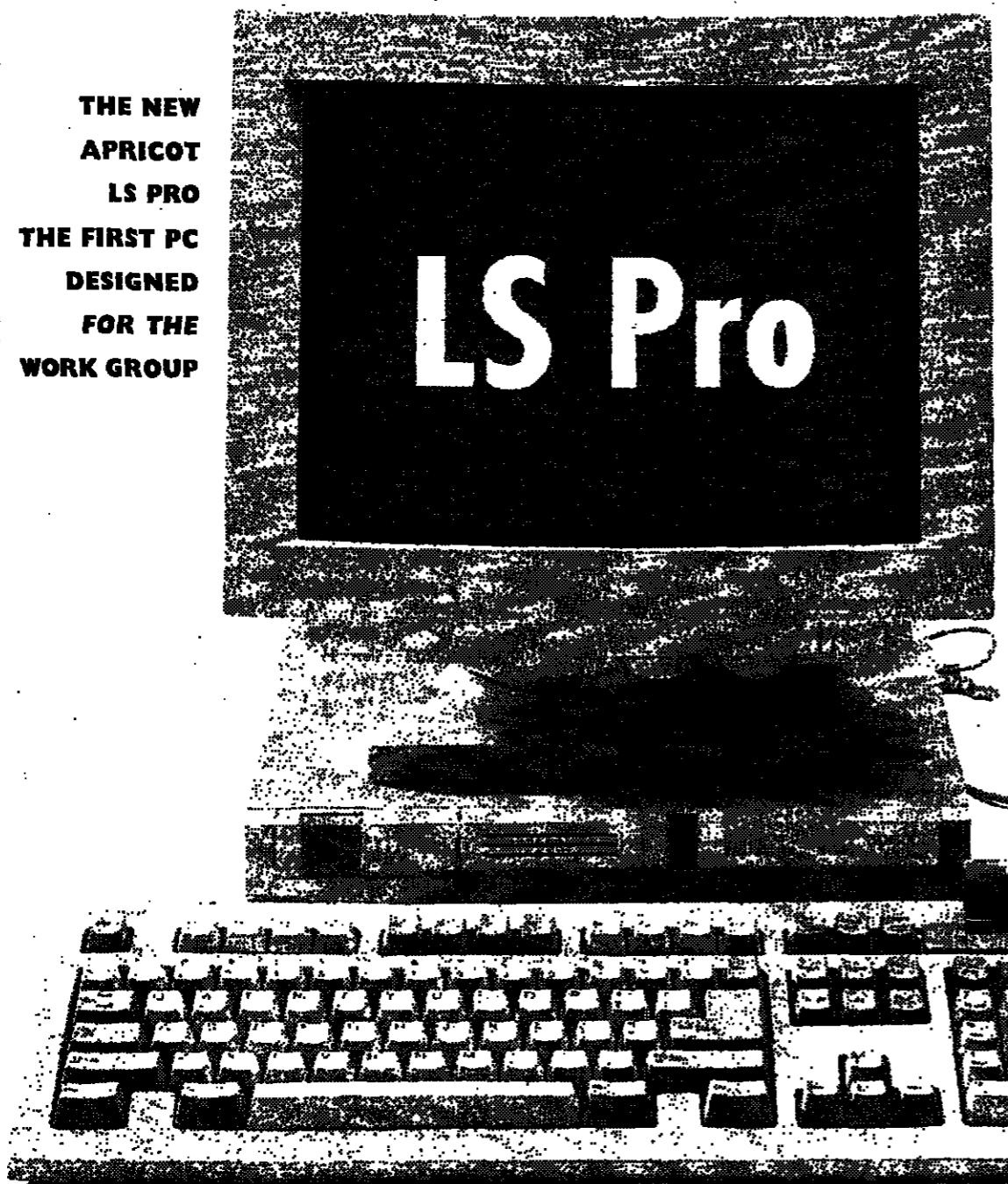
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By 1995, it is estimated, 70% of all PCs will be networked.

This revolution is well advanced today, fuelled by network-based applications like electronic mail, group scheduling and departmental project management.

These all improve the business efficiency of a group of people (the work group), by allowing them to share the information they need to make better, faster, more creative decisions.

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The Apricot LS Pro is a high performance computer that comes ready with all the features that are key to work group operation.

Networking, Security, Business Audio and Enhanced Video Graphics are all – astonishingly – housed inside a slimline casing just over 2" deep.

This integrated approach enables us to design our systems

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APRICOT LS PRO 386SX-33

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without compromise, resulting in faster performance and greater reliability.

It also gives the LS Pro a clear advantage in terms of price: to buy a Dell configured to an equivalent specification using add-in cards, for example, would cost you at least 15% more.

66% faster network performance.

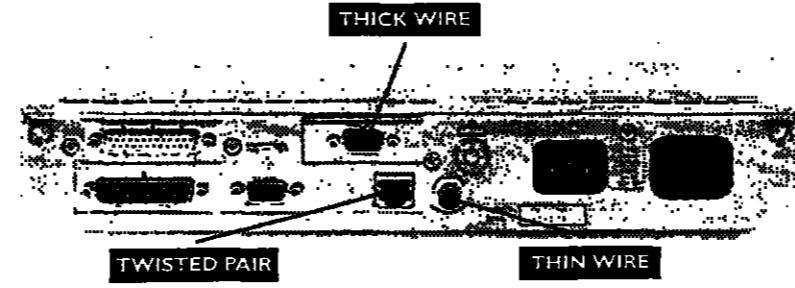
Add-in network cards frequently slow computer performance, undermining the very principles of work group operation.

Which is why the LS Pro makes use of a new Ethernet (network) co-processor from Intel which sits right next to the main processor.

This Integrated Network Architecture (INA) allows LS Pro users to access information over the network 66%

faster than equivalent PCs equipped with add-in cards – a significant improvement in productivity.

And because networking is integrated, every new LS Pro computer comes fully network-ready, with connections for all three Ethernet standards: thin wire, thick wire and twisted pair. There is even an option for Token Ring.

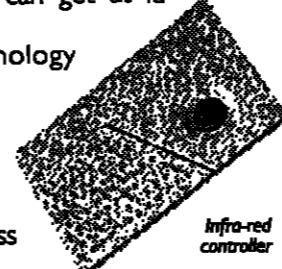


You can't take security for granted.

Nor do we.

Once you start sharing information in a group, you need to make certain that only the right people can get at it.

Which is why Apricot's LOC Technology Security System is also standard, working on two levels.



The first barrier controls physical access to the computer through the use of a credit-card sized infra-red controller. Without it, the machine simply can't be activated.

The second barrier is based on an advanced password

management system with a range of clever protocols.

It's the only such system to be certified to UK Level 1 by the Government's Security Evaluation and Certification Group and, importantly, it also prevents contamination by all known viruses.

What is Business Audio?

Business Audio enables the LS Pro to record and playback sound under Windows 3.1, digitally and in stereo.

It has input/output jacks on the side of the casing and a microphone which attaches to the top right corner of the keyboard, for direct voice-input.

And while it may seem like the first signs of madness to start talking to your computer, in reality it opens up a wide range of practical benefits.

You can, for example, annotate documents by voice. You can listen to "Help" files instead of having to read them. You can even send electronic mail by voice instead of written text.

For work groups, it even opens up the prospect of LAN conferencing, where you can talk to someone else on the network in real time, while sharing the same information on-screen.

Compact size, generous spec.

The new LS Pro ranges from a 386SX running at 33MHz with 2Mb RAM to a 486SLC running at 33MHz with 4Mb RAM.

Additionally, all models can be expanded up to 16Mb of SIMM memory.

IDE hard drives range from the standard 80Mb right up to an 8 ms access time 515Mb, with diskless versions also available.

And all models have an integrated high performance EVGA graphics controller supporting up to 1024 x 768 x 256 colours.

Who needs the LS Pro?

If you're networked (or about to be) there's simply no better computer you can buy than the LS Pro.

But even if you're just looking for a new PC, nothing can match its specification and its compact size at the price. And if you're looking ahead, it's worth bearing in mind that a new piece of software from Microsoft – Windows for Workgroups – will allow as few as two LS Pro computers to be networked together, simply by connecting a cable between them.

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Refusal of leading athletes to take part has devalued inter-continental competition

Market leaders shun the World Cup

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN HAVANA

THE sixth World Cup begins here today looking as rundown as the Cuban capital, once the most beautiful city in the Caribbean. It is without the support of all but a few of the sport's main personalities and, if this is not the last World Cup, then the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) is not reading the signs.

Tony Dees, the Olympic sprint hurdles runner-up, was supposed to have checked in with the United States team on Wednesday but failed to show. He was the last surviving top name in the US men's line-up and John Capriotti, the assistant team manager, was trying to patch up by asking Nat Page, a 400 metres hurdler, to fill the hole.

No pay, no play, and it shows in a team missing Carl Lewis, Kevin Young, Quincy Watts and the Unified Team is without Sergey Bubka and the Africans are minus Noureddine Moreci, Moses Kiptanui and others. Call this a World Cup? "The dollar always comes first and athletes just get per diem cheques to compete," Capriotti said. "The athletes need more incentive to be here."

Even if there was, how many would come? "The World Cup is something that everyone could do without," said Ron Rodden, coach to Linford Christie, one of the few Olympic champions here. "There is too much competition." Christie is here at this late stage in the season mainly because he takes pride on captaining his country.

When the World Cup was first held in 1977, the advantages were perceived as an expansion of world-class competition, the stimulation of continental areas, and a way to provide revenue for development. In those days there was no grand prix and no biennial world championships.

Even as recently as 1989 the World Cup still seemed worthwhile, providing competition better than any grand prix

that season (Bile v Coe and Kingdom v Jackson to name but two). Now there is too much competition and, though Cuba will make \$250,000, it is a loss-maker for the IAAF, which is having to pay a host broadcaster to cover the event.

From 1981 to 1989 the World Cup was held every four years, but has been brought forward from 1993 to avoid clashing with the world championships. The format comprises men's and women's matches between eight teams, three national and one from each of the five continents.

José-María Odrizola, the Spanish federation president and manager of the European team, said here that the World Cup had been "a little devalued" by the paucity of the season's champion athletes present and was especially critical of the United States. "I do not care to say my opinion because it is too strong," Odrizola said.

"In the European team we have 60 per cent of our first-choice athletes." Not worthy of a World Cup, either. However, he remains in favour of the occasion. "It has a special flavour," he said.

By finishing in the first two of the European Cup last year, Britain have qualified for the men's World Cup. Third behind the United States and Europe in the last one, the team appears weak, even compared with a US squad comprising mainly fourth or fifth choices, and will do well to match that position. Britain are without Curtis Robb, Steve Backley, Steve Smith, David Grindley, Tom Hanlon, Rob Denman and Kris Akabusi.

Each team finds one athlete per event, scoring eight points for first and one for last. Thus Glen Smith, aged 20 and making his British senior debut in the discus, is as central to the team as Christie, who has been spared the trouble of facing Olapade Adeniken, who has beaten him three times since the Olympics.



Her last throw: Sanderson will bow out of international athletics after representing Europe in Cuba

Adeniken is down for the 200 metres but the African team should still provide Christie with his closest challenger, having named Frankie Fredericks for the 100 metres. Fredericks was the silver medal winner behind Christie in Barcelona.

The first-day should be Britain's best and the second their worst. Britain start favourite in only two of the 20 events: the 100 metres and the 110 metres hurdles, in which Colin Jackson should have a clear

run in the absence of Dees or the Olympic champion, Mark McEoy.

The British women's team did not qualify but Gowry Reichakian, in the 400 metres hurdles, and Tessa Sanderson, in the javelin, will represent Europe. Sanderson is having one last international competition before retirement, but is not taking it too seriously. "I am only here for the kit," she said. The IAAF must wish there were more like her so easily pleased.

BOXING

Graham reaches the end

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE career of Herol Graham is as good as over. After his defeat in the ninth round by Frank Grant, a journeyman boxer from Bradford, at Leeds on Wednesday night, the former British and European super-middleweight champion has no other way open to him but retirement.

Since the fourth-round defeat by Julian Jackson, the World Boxing Council champion, in Spain in 1990, Graham has never looked happy taking a punch on the chin, and if he should continue boxing he could suffer serious injury.

Graham said after his defeat at Elland Road: "I have to sit down and think about the future. A knockout by a champion is one thing but to be stopped by Grant, well though he fought, is another."

Graham's promoter, Mickey Duff, said: "Herol put up the best performance that I have seen but his reflexes are not what they were. He has some very serious thinking to do."

According to people close to Graham, 33, he has not been able to save enough to retire in



Graham: gloves off

Lewis calls in heavyweight help

BY SRIKUMAR SEN

LENNOX Lewis will be prepared for all eventualities when he meets Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, the No. 1 heavyweight contender, in the world title eliminator at Earls Court on October 31.

Whether Ruddock comes to fight or box, or both, Lewis will be ready for him. He has engaged Mike Weaver and Tony Tubbs at \$2,000 each a week as his chief sparring partners. The two former champions are exactly the right men for the job. Weaver is a heavy puncher and Tubbs is a superb boxer.

Lewis, speaking from his training camp in the Poconos,

comfort for the rest of his life, even though he is estimated to have made close to £750,000 in a 14-year career.

Graham tried desperately to seek a big-money fight with Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn but they both avoided him. Almost certainly he will have to stay close to boxing, perhaps training younger men to win the world title that he could never lift.

Graham has boxed in 18

championships and has been beaten only five times in 49

contests. He was one of the finest boxers in post-war Britain. He was also the unluckiest, coming within one point of beating Mike McCallum, of Jamaica, for the World Boxing Association title. A year later, in 1990, he was frustrated by one punch from Jackson. The referee was about to stop the bout in Graham's favour in the fourth round when Jackson pulled out a knockout punch.

Graham became known as

the best middleweight never to

have a world title. Despite

three more contests he was

never able to change that tag

and it is to be hoped that he

will now have the sense not to

try.

It is a pity that Graham's

defeat overshadowed a victory

of Henry Wharton, of York,

over Fidel Castro Smith on the

same bill. It was a well

matched contest which Wharton,

the British and Commonwealth

super-middleweight champion, won by one round.

RESULTS: British and Commonwealth super-middleweight championship (12 Nov): Henry Wharton (W) over Fidel Castro Smith (D), 12 Nov; British middleweight championship (12 Nov): Frank Braden (D) over Herol Graham (Sheffield, holder), nc 9th rd.

Business rivals do battle

BY ALEX RAMSAY

IT IS a long way from San Francisco to Spitalfields Market, but from tomorrow, the World Corporate Games will take over the sporting venues of London as 6,000 competitors from around the globe forsake their Filoxipes and do battle on the sports track rather than in the boardroom.

The Games, which open officially on Sunday at Spitalfields Market, began in 1985 in California and have since visited Hawaii and France. The sports range from petanque to dragon boat racing and will take place at the best venues in and around the capital, including the All England Club and Wentworth.

The idea is to have athletes of all standards and ages competing in a structured competition. The teams are divided into age groups and divisions according to number, allowing the three-strong badminton team from a restaurant in Stoke Newington to compete alongside the 450 members of the British Airways squad.

Casting a professional eye over the proceedings at each venue will be sports personalities such as Bernard Gallagher, Virginia Wade, Fred Perry and Sir Stanley Matthews.

The hour is not yet over for the 12-strong badminton team from a restaurant in Stoke Newington to compete alongside the 450 members of the British Airways squad.

With the riches heavy-weight eliminator ever, will cost £4 million to stage, Lewis's sponsors, Nighthawk AutoBar, will use a sales force of 7,000 to sell the remaining 7,000 or 8,000 tickets at Earls Court, which holds 12,000 people.

—Crawford Ashley's challenge for the vacant European light-heavyweight title against Mike Tyson.

Ruddock, who at the moment weighs 235lb, is training in the heat of Puerto Rico. His trainer, Floyd Patterson,

is the Dutch judge also gave the boxers equal points, although the Swiss judge awarded victory to Ashley, the British champion, from Leeds, by a clear margin. Under European Boxing Union (EBU) rules a draw was declared and the EBU must organise a rematch.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan sure to test Larder's theories

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PHIL Larder is at one with Brian Clough in believing successful sides have first to be strong in defence. The new coach of Widnes, who play at Wigan tonight in the Stones Bitter championship, says "The motion of the team working together flows forward from the defence, with your scrum half and stand-off the attacking linchpins, and the backs cannot possibly operate."

The continued absence of Larder's first choice half-back pairing perhaps explains why Widnes have scored the fourth-fewest points in the League. Their defence, meanwhile, has turned out to be the most miserly.

When Goulding and Tony Myler direct affairs behind the scenes, Larder believes the side will gain a broader attacking vision. But they have yet to play together.

Goulding does return at scrum half tonight after a two-month suspension, but will have David Hulme as his partner. Myler, whose career has been hampered by injury, withdrew yesterday because of problems with his knees.

Should Wigan commit Widnes to move possession out wide they will find Adrian Hadley is showing a new incisiveness since his signing from Salford, working in tandem.

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Swinton, who are fighting the threat of insolvency, are looking for an eleventh-hour rescue. The crisis at the second

division club, which has debts of £200,000 despite selling its ground and moving six miles to play at Bury football club this season, deepened yesterday with the resignation from the board of John Way, a former chairman.

Malcolm White, the chairman, said Sunday's league game at Oldham and the Lancashire Cup tie against Wigan at home next Tuesday would take place. "It's quite simply really, in that if supporters want us to continue, we will. We need more fans through the gate," he said.

Stuart Pugsley, the new coach, is refusing to pay part of the player's outstanding

contract, worth about £90,000, and is threatening to take legal action if the players do not

pay up. "I have to do what I have to do," he said.

Gallagher stays put

SALFORD have abandoned talks with Leeds over the transfer of John Gallagher, the former New Zealand rugby union full back, who seems destined to work out the remaining two years of his contract at Headingley on the sidelines (Christopher Irvine writes).

With Leeds refusing to pay part of the player's outstanding

contract, worth about £90,000, and is threatening to take legal action if the players do not

pay up. "I have to do what I have to do," he said.

Gallagher has been unable to command a regular first-team place for 18 months.

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Belgian course raises Faldo's interest

Woosnam adapts to wind and rain with cool putting

FROM MEL WEBB IN KNOX, BELGIUM

ONLY 15 players beat par on a raw and blustery first day of the Piaget Open yesterday, and the best of the lot was the small and determined figure of Ian Woosnam, who took the lead with a 67, four under par.

Woosnam, his merciful putting stroke enjoying one of its better days, is a shot ahead of Jim Payne and Barry Lane, with a posse of five players a stroke further back.

The magnificent rolling links of Royal Zoute is a difficult enough test in ideal conditions. The wind and rain squalls that swept over the course yesterday made par an achievement and better a small miracle.

Woosnam, starting from the 10th, had to begin with the more testing back nine, which is nearly 400 yards longer than the outward half, and he made a virtue of the fact by birdieing two of the three par-five holes to turn in 35, two under par.

SCORES FROM KNOX

On the 531-yard 12th, played into the teeth of the stiff breeze, he drilled a low, wind-cheating three-iron to the front edge of the green, and calmly took two putts from 30 feet or so for his first birdie. He saved another shot on the 15th, hitting through the slight right-to-left dog-leg, then taking a six-iron and a sand wedge to eight feet. The putt disappeared and Woosnam had achieved a positive advantage from a slightly conservative approach; an object lesson in course management, if ever there was one.

He had played pretty well up to this point, but without much doubt his best shot of the day came on the short 3rd, his 12th. He hit his tee shot miles to the right off the tee and found himself in a dreadful 25 yards from the hole.

A bogey loomed large at that moment, but he saved the situation with a marvellous little lobbing sand-iron stroke

to four feet. It was downhill, he had no green to play with, it made the par putt a formality.

Woosnam reckoned he could have played the chip another thousand times without repeating the trick. "You've got to call it lucky," he said with becoming modesty. Yes, sure, the better they are, the luckier they get.

On a bad day on the greens, Woosnam might have three-putted the 5th. But this was not a bad day on the greens, or anywhere else, and he made the 20-footer look easy.

The difficult 7th, with the pin in a cruel position on the top level of a double-tiered green and only five yards off the right edge, could cast a ball hit even a yard to the right of the flag off the putting surface. Woosnam's ball was down the slope and across it — 25 feet if it was an inch — and in it rolled.

Woosnam quite reasonably fancies his chances if the remainder of the tournament is played in anything like these conditions. But not even he will be able to ignore the presence of Nick Faldo a couple of shots behind.

Faldo had three birdies and one bogey in his 69. "This course has got my interest level up," he said.

He sounded menacingly, like a man with victory on his mind. And when the best golfer in the world is in that sort of mood, nobody is safe.

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Norway organise confidence trick

NORWAY have proved, in their World Cup qualifying defeat of Holland, that it is better in football's recessionary era, to have an average team being effective than a gifted team being average. Norway are now to be feared for an excess of the ordinary.

There was an astonishing performance on Wednesday night, and the 2-1 victory was no fluke. They are a definitely functional team at international level. Yet while we can celebrate with this minor football nation their climb towards a first place in the final stages of a tournament, it is depressing that they should provide for Graham Taylor an exact example of the way he wishes once mighty England now to play.

At the heart of Norway's improvement is a slim, greying, middle-aged former winger, Egil Olsen. To the supporters on the terraces, who are even taking bank loans to be at Wembley in three weeks' time, Olsen is

known as Drillo, the nearest translation of which is trickster, going back to his days as an old fashioned dribbler whose feint could persuade opponents to step out of his path.

Almost unknown as a coach internationally, with one season in 20 years in the Norwegian first division and dismissed eight years ago as national under-21 coach by the federation for his defensive policies, Olsen is perhaps one of the few who may come to be considered generally the great manager: one who creates a team that is more than the sum of its parts.

Many of the so-called great managers were either fortunate to have the advantage of exceptional players, who create a great team independently, or they had a fat cheque book. The English premier division is over-loaded with managers squandering money and producing teams of less than the sum of its parts.

David Miller examines the secrets behind the success of Egil Olsen, the Norway manager, who plotted the unexpected defeat of Holland

The better coaches are either innovators, such as Arthur Rowe, or those building bricks without straw: Alan Ashman, with Carlisle, Jimmy Sirrell, Alf Ramsey with Ipswich in the second division.

Most neutral observers were agreed at half-time on Wednesday night that Holland, level at 1-1, would in the second half win by a goal or two. Though much in their own half of the field, they were dominating long phases of play by their control of the ball. Norway's victory was a tribute to Olsen, in his organisation and to his players' execution of it: something substantially superior to the haphazard qualifying victory over England here 11 years ago.

Then, Norway lost the away game at Wembley 4-0 (while Olsen's youth side was drawing 0-0 at home and losing 3-0 at Southampton). Now, they beat Holland with the same kind of application that overcame Italy by 2-1 at home in the European qualifying tournament and gained a 1-1 draw in Genoa, when they led until six minutes from time.

Olsen's revolution of Norway's football, with a 10-4 record so far over two years, is no accident. His achievement this week, with the crowd staying behind afterwards to chant its acclaim, brought him a princely £2,000 bonus. Pro-tips? "It's simple, really," Olsen said yesterday, unaffectedly, amid the glow of the morning

headlines. "Holland were better with the ball, but we were clever without it." His instruction to his team at half-time was to let Holland continue to play in their own half of the field. "That way," he explained, "I knew that, with our style, they would be less likely to make scoring chances at our end."

Taylor, who acknowledged the degree of Norway's performance, is justified with functional tactics in the absence of gifted English players. His error, in my opinion, is to keep changing the system and personnel. Norway, under Olsen, know exactly how they are going to play, built entirely around defensive organisation.

This consists of using three, and sometimes four, zonal markers at the back, "passing on" attackers as they switch position, never mind whether it is somebody as dangerous as van Basten. The key to their function is the pressure applied to the

opponent in possession by the midfield five in either a 3-5-2 or 4-5-1 formation.

"We have not the same capacity in attack," Olsen said. "Therefore we have to run and to move the ball forward very quickly to our front men, Jakobsen and Sorloth, attacking the spaces behind the opposition's defence. We never create chances from a lot of passes, but from set-pieces or from the opposition's breakdown."

He is sorry, he says, that Norway are not good enough to play better football. "It has been," he says modestly, "a big debate nationally."

Though dismissed by the federation in 1984, he was brought back as Olympic coach in 1989, then appointed national manager on the recommendation of the then incumbent, Ingvar Stadheim. Now, he has taught Norway's players to do no more than what they can do. He is giving a lesson to all lesser teams.

MPs want say in distribution of lottery proceeds

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A LARGE majority of MPs across all parties support the introduction of the national lottery, an independent survey reported yesterday. However, most MPs are anxious that they have a say in the distribution of its proceeds, which are forecast to provide up to £1 billion for sport, the arts and the environment by 1999, five years after its scheduled start.

Charles Barker, the public relations company, found that 82 per cent of the 60 MPs questioned were in favour of the lottery, which was announced by the government in a pre-election white paper on March 6.

The successor to David Mellor as Secretary of State at the national heritage department will be responsible for steering the bill through parliament, and officials are now interviewing organisations about their proposals.

The lottery was described last March by Kenneth Baker, then home secretary, as "a development of great significance. It provides a unique opportunity to improve, in a lasting way, the quality of life".

In the report, *A chance to prosper? Options for a national lottery*, 90 per cent of MPs said that sport and the arts should benefit from the lottery's profits, with 64 per cent supporting heritage projects and museums. However, 82 per cent of MPs rejected proposals for the lottery to be used as a substitute for existing non-discretionary government expenditure, such as the National Health Service, education and social services.

The survey said that only 36 per cent of MPs want an independent board to decide on the distribution of profits. Sixty per cent want this to be a parliamentary function, with four per cent saying that the task was best left to private operators.

One reason that the government decided to set up a national lottery was because of fears that British punters would begin betting on foreign lotteries, which are now focusing on the UK market. Britain and Albania are the only countries in Europe which do not have national lotteries. In France, lotteries generate annual sales of almost £2 billion, in Germany £2.5 billion, in Belgium nearly £3 billion, in Austria £3.5 billion, and in Spain more than £5 billion.

Joe McCrea, the report's author, said that "it is impossible to say what effect the lottery will have on either betting turnover or charitable incomes. The national lottery, in a British context, is uncharted waters for both the government and the general public".

The football pools companies have repeatedly claimed that the introduction of the lottery will cut their income, so reducing the tax on the lottery, and possibly lead to redundancies among their 6,000 full-time and 72,000 part-time employees, many of whom live in areas of high unemployment.

Football also receives £40 million a year from pools-related sources: £20 million for ground improvements from the 1990 reduction in the pools betting levy, £12 million from the spot-the-ball donations, and £8 million for the use of fixtures on pools coupons.

The companies have also set up the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, which is now distributing nearly £70 million a year.

McCrea concluded: "It may well be the case that the government would wish to provide for the maximum amount of flexibility to be built into the lottery structure to enable fine-tuning to be applied as experience is gained of the effect of the lottery, once up and running."

BOWLS

Sussex rules the fours

THREE teams from Sussex have qualified for the semi-finals of the Woolwich Worthing open tournament fours at Beach House Park (Gordon Allan writes).

Fleming Park, from Eastleigh, take on Popesmead, of Crawley, and a composite Brighton rink play Worthing Pavilion.

Fleming Park, who were skipped by Mike Spreadbury, defeated Adam Tidby's powerful Dorset combination 22-17 yesterday.

The closest match was between Popesmead, skipped by

Barry Evans

Four

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- GOLF 34
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THE TIMES SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1992

IAN STEWART

New dimension to ball-tampering row

Surrey are found guilty and get a suspended fine

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

SURREY were fined £1,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) yesterday for repeatedly tampering with the ball. At a disciplinary hearing on Wednesday, attended by the club captain, Alec Stewart, the coach, Geoff Arnold, and the secretary, David Seward, Surrey admitted breaching Law 42 (5), governing unfair play, during a championship match against Leicestershire at The Oval last month.

On August 17, the last morning of the game, the ball was changed by the umpires, Barry Dudley and John Holder, in accordance with Law 42. Their report to the TCCB was considered a matter for the disciplinary committee because Surrey had been warned in 1990 and 1991 for similar incidents.

The announcement by the board yesterday came less than 24 hours after Allan Lamb had been fined five times the Surrey penalty for commenting publicly on alleged Pakistani transgressions. The apparent imbalance in treatment between the culprit and the accuser will not pass unnoticed — especially as Surrey's fine has been suspended for two years as a good behaviour incentive.

It will also be thought significant that Wager Younis, Pakistan's brilliant swing bowler, is registered with Surrey. Wager did not, of course, play in the relevant match this summer as he was still with the touring team.

But he did play against Gloucestershire, at Cheltenham in 1990, and against Yorkshire, at Guisborough last year, when the umpires concerned also reported their

suspicions that the ball had been illegally tampered with. On the first occasion, when Surrey were led by the recently retired Ian Greig, Wager played no significant part. But in the Yorkshire game, when Stewart was acting captain, he took five for eight in a devastating spell with the old ball, Surrey winning by one wicket.

It emerged yesterday that the vampires in that game, Don Oster and Bob White, had been so dissatisfied with the state of the ball while Surrey were fielding that they wanted to change it.

They did not do so because, apparently, the only replacement ball of an appropriate usage available was one they had viewed with some suspicion when officiating at Surrey's previous game on the same ground — a game in which Wager took seven for 87 against Gloucestershire.

On Seward's express in-

struction, no Surrey official would comment on the issue yesterday but there is sure to be considerable embarrassment within the club. Its committee contains some eminent former Test players and high-ranking administrators while Stewart, the captain, is regarded as virtually certain to take over from Graham Gooch as England's captain this time next year.

No blame is attached to any individual player by the TCCB, largely because the umpires found it impossible to identify those responsible. It was also not made clear just what had been done to the ball in each instance.

A board statement, however, emphasised there is no fear that this first official penalty for ball-tampering will open the flood-gates. "We do not consider this to be a serious problem in our domestic game. There is nothing which cannot be coped with through the co-operation of captains and the vigilance of umpires."

I understand there are no other cases of this nature in the board's pending tray and that Surrey remain the one county to be reported for the offence. Inevitably, they will be under intense scrutiny next year, when Wager returns to their ranks, and the same is likely to apply to Lancashire, who will welcome back Wasim Akram.

Ken Lawrence, the TCCB spokesman, insisted yesterday: "All eyes may be on Lancashire and Surrey but our umpires will be ever-handed. We want to stamp out ball-tampering, however little of it there may be."

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Disappointing day: Dottie Mochrie chips to the 14th during her round of 74

Sheehan would like to see British Open on US Tour

By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

PATTY Sheehan, of the United States, yesterday held court on and off the fairways at the Woburn Golf and Country Club. She launched her challenge for the Weetabix British Open with a first round of 68, five under par, and criticised the US LPGA for failing to wholly recognise an event which has been afforded major championship status.

Sheehan, the US Open champion, gathered nine birdies, with which she overshadowed her playing partners, Laura Davies (73) and Lisette Neumann (74).

Then she revealed that she obtained a place in the event only as the fifth alternate, after the four American players

ahead of her withdrew. "If that had not happened, then I would have come here, as I would have been fined \$10,000 by the LPGA for playing without a release," she said. "I think it's a ridiculous fine."

"I think especially in view of the Solheim Cup taking place next week, our commissioner should have made it possible for more members of the US team to play here at Woburn. In fact, I think the British Open should be a part of our schedule."

Incessant rain made conditions almost intolerable in the morning. Sheehan said that she played in such weather only once or twice each year,

but she took it in her stride. "I knew it was not going to be a blistering round and that the key would be patience," she said.

Sheehan teed off at 10.10. Her opening drive dis-

appeared into the rough but she salvaged a birdie by hitting a third shot with a six-iron to one foot from the hole. She had two more birdies while playing her first nine in 38.

At the 1st, she played a lovely punched seven-iron under a tree to 15 feet for a birdie. Then she hit another excellent shot at the 2nd, a punched eight-iron to ten feet below the hole. Sheehan dropped a shot at the next, but she coaxed four birdies out of the last six holes.

Sheehan's companion, Dotie Mochrie, took 74.

Neumann, however, is in contention in spite of a back injury. The Swede said she teed off in some trepidation after hitting only five practice shots in the last week.

Out in 39, she extinguished her fears by emulating Sheehan in playing the next nine holes in 30. She looked particularly sharp on the greens, holing from between seven and 20 feet for her five birdies coming home.

Davies hung a milestone around her neck by taking seven at the 16th, which was her first hole.

Tottenham feel renewed heat over cup tickets

By JOHN GOODBODY

TOTTENHAM Hotspur Football Club, which was criticised by the Football Association for its handling of tickets for the 1991 FA Cup final, was yesterday alleged to have received tickets for this year's final only for them to end in the possession of touts.

The Liverpool trading standards officers, who estimate that touts made a profit of at least £138,000 at the 1992 final through the resale of tickets, name eight other clubs and also eight county associations, although they say the organisations may all have complied fully with the FA's rules and any breach may have occurred further down the supply chain. The FA

annually holds its own investigation into the allocation of tickets and will consider the information from the trading standards officers.

The other clubs are: Southampton, Newcastle United, Luton Town, Bristol Rovers, Barnet, Brighton and the two 1992 finalists, Liverpool and Sunderland. However, the trading standards officers paid tribute to Liverpool's efforts to minimise ticketing involving its 26,000 ticket allocation from the Wembley all-seat capacity of 78,000.

The county football associations were Hertfordshire, Berks and Bucks, Surrey, Kent, Essex, London, Hampshire and Wiltshire.

The latest investigation shows that despite a five-year campaign launched by the Liverpool trading standards officers and action taken by the FA, a serious problem still exists for English football's most attractive annual fixture.

Last March, the FA censured Tottenham for the way it handled the distribution of tickets for the 1991 final and ordered the club to pay £2,500 in costs. The FA said that

Tottenham had not kept proper records of tickets allocated to persons, other than players and officials, and had failed to reply to correspondence "in a manner expected of a full member club of the FA".

Tottenham was warned about its future conduct and ordered to give written assurances about the future handling of tickets. It also recommended that Tottenham's allocation for the final should be cut by 20 per cent over the next three years.

Nobody from the club was available to comment yesterday but an FA spokesman said that the issues were completely different in the two years. "This allegation is a serious one and we need to be completely confident in our own minds that something untoward has occurred. By no means every case reported to us in the past has been substantiated."

FA changes, such as giving more tickets to the finalist with the larger following, pre-printing tickets with the source allocated and naming those people punished for mishandling their allocation, have led to a drop in touting of more than 50 per cent since the 1988 campaign began.

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The latest investigation shows that despite a five-year campaign launched by the Liverpool trading standards officers and action taken by the FA, a serious problem still exists for English football's most attractive annual fixture.

Merle Campbell, the Liberal Democrats spokesman on sport, has tried to get through Parliament a private members' bill making it illegal to sell a ticket for more than ten per cent of its face value.

Mansell advised to show restraint

By NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell will have to guard against impatience when he races the fearsome Indy oval circuits next year, according to Emerson Fittipaldi, 45, the Brazilian who has twice won the Formula One world championship and the Indianapolis 500.

"On an oval, even the slightest mistake can be disastrous. If the driver lets his rear wheels go into a slide he has no chance at all of rectifying the trajectory," Fittipaldi said yesterday in Estoril.

What he did not say is that, unlike in Formula One, there are no run-off areas on the ovals, just concrete walls.

"At Indianapolis and in Michigan your speed never falls below 210 miles an hour," Fittipaldi said. "This creates all sorts of new situations which Nigel may not be familiar with. For example, you cannot drive aggressively because at that speed everyone is totally committed."

"If you cut anybody up, this would result in an accident. And accidents can be fatal, not made it here."

only because of the speed but also because the cars are not built to Formula One standards.

All of this may make life difficult for Mansell, who is an aggressive driver, and one who will not like to hang around, waiting for the learning period to be completed.

But Fittipaldi was adamant that it was essential to go cautiously at first.

"It may look easy to drive around the ovals," he said. "But after eleven years in Formula One, I had to negotiate a very steep learning curve. It all comes down to the speeds: they are such that it is very hard to feel the limit of the car, as you can do in Formula One. It suddenly just goes away from you."

Carl Haas, who has signed Mansell for his team, will have Mario Andretti on hand to help smooth the way.

Meanwhile, there will be only 24 cars on the starting line for the Portuguese Grand Prix on Sunday as Brabham and Fondmetal have not

made it here.

rather than in the relatively insignificant Italian Cup-tie against Cesena, a second division side, on October 7. Last night, Zoff said he would make a decision on Gascoigne on Sunday an hour or two before the game.

The England squad is scheduled to assemble for the World Cup qualifying tie against Norway at Wembley the day after the match against Cesena. Taylor has already indicated that Gascoigne will be invited. In that case, the offer will naturally be accepted, as it was in Spain a few weeks ago.

"If I don't play for Lazio," Gascoigne said, "I can't play for England. I need to get fitter and I want to be in perfect condition for the game against Norway. I think I will be." It would be characteristic of this unconventional individual to resume his England career at Wembley, where his troubles began.

Norwegian threat, page 35
James dropped, page 35

Fox given ban after drugs test

KEVIN Fox, the Neath flanker, has been suspended after failing a drugs test earlier this month.

The former Wales Under-19 cap provided a urine sample that showed traces of the stimulant, ephedrine. He could face a three-month ban.

Fox was tested after Neath's opening Heineken League match of the season at Pontypridd on September 5, but Leighton Davies, the Neath coach, claimed that the 23-year-old was innocent.

"Kevin simply took a tablet for a heavy cold, a tablet bought by his mother over the counter at a chemist," said Davies yesterday.

"He would not deliberately take a substance to enhance his performance and it was not pre-meditated. We shall be contacting the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) to establish his right of appeal."

"He would not deliberately take a substance to enhance his performance and it was not pre-meditated. We shall be contacting the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) to establish his right of appeal."

PAUL Gascoigne has taken the first of three steps to heaven, according to Lawrie McMenemy. Graham Taylor's assistant, sent here specifically to gauge the progress of England's rehabilitated midfield player, was among those surprised by the impact he made during his unofficial debut for Lazio.

"It reminded me of the old Eddie Cochran song," McMenemy said after watching Gascoigne score an early goal and create the second in the 3-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur. "His second step is to play a proper League game and the third is to play for England."

The timing of those objectives is now occupying the interest of all those connected to Gascoigne's club and of those awaiting an injection of ingenuity into his country's sterile midfield. He promises to reach them both faster than could have been foreseen.

It had been thought, for instance, that he could not realistically be in contention for a place in the England

team until the conveniently comfortable World Cup qualifying tie at home to San Marino in February. Taylor said as much yesterday, before hearing McMenemy's report.

Other significant observers were also impressed. Gary Mabbutt, the captain when Gascoigne touched his peak at Tottenham, believes that his former colleague is ready now to resume his international career.

"The sooner the better," as he put it, "because his presence would give them the lift it needs."

John Sheridan, the Tottenham physiotherapist who nursed Gascoigne through his prolonged recuperation, is convinced that his celebrated partner will be "back to his best or even better within a few months. He is 100 per cent now. All he needs is to play more games."

There lies the key. As there are no reserve team fixtures in Italy, Gascoigne can take part in meaningful action only if he is selected from a party which includes three other foreigners — Dolfi and Riedle, a pair of German forwards and Winter, a Dutch midfield player.

Under Uefa's regulations, only three can be chosen in the squad and Gascoigne's obvious rival is Winter. Sergio Cragnotti, the Lazio chairman, is reported to have expressed a wish that the Englishman is employed in the next league game, at home to Genoa on Sunday.

"It is a hot potato," he said yesterday. "But our manager needs his men for 90 minutes. We'll have to see whether Gascoigne can last that long [he was withdrawn after 65 on Wednesday night] and we must be careful. Lazio is not

Gascoigne's ascent into Lazio's firmament will depend

on Dino Zoff. "If there was a game out here now," Gascoigne said yesterday, nodding towards the training pitch. "I would want to play in it. That is all I want to do. Play football."

Zoff is agonising over his choice. He revealed that Gascoigne has "a 50-50 chance" of competing against Genoa and, if he does not play then, he is certain to start against Palma the following weekend.

Gascoigne's ascent into Lazio's firmament will depend

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